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New status for Nagorno-Karabakh

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet parliament approved a new status for the disputed territory of Nagorno-Karabakh Tuesday, which appeared to return it to the control of Azerbaijan. The decision, approved by a wide majority during a session of the Supreme Soviet, was the subject of a heated debate in the chamber before the vote was taken. More than 120 people have died in two years of conflict over the territory, populated mainly by Armenians but administered by Azerbaijan since 1923. Some 200,000 people have left their homes to flee the violence. Nikita Khrushchev, an independent journalist in the Azerbaijan capital, Baku, said the decision included dissolution of a Moscow-appointed committee currently running the territory. A Moscow-based Armenian journalist confirmed that the committee run by Kremlin envoy Arkady Volsky had been replaced by a new body answerable mainly to Azerbaijan. Khrushchev said the new body, an "organizational committee," would be made up of local government and Communist Party officials. Five thousand special troops in the area would be replaced by police based in Azerbaijan.

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Syria builds up against Baabda

BAABDA, Lebanon (AP) — Syria poured troops and armour into Lebanon Tuesday, apparently preparing for an assault on military headquarters east of Beirut after the new Damascus-backed government fired him as army commander.

An aide to Aoun said that despite the reinforcements, the general was "determined not to give in. We'll fight to the end."

France, the Palestinians' traditional protector, stepped in to avert another round of bloodshed.

French envoy Francois Scher arrived in Lebanon, while the Foreign Ministry in Paris declared in a statement that France "will not be on the side of those who would assume the responsibility of again taking up violence."

Residents in Shitoura, a Syrian-controlled market town on the main Damascus-Beirut Highway in the eastern Bekaa Valley, said they were jolted out of beds during the night by the loud rumble of tanks and trucks.

The residents, insisting on anonymity for security considerations, said some 15,000-16,000 troops in 800 trucks had moved in

by midday (1000 GMT) Tuesday from Syria.

They counted some 120 artillery pieces of various caliber, 90 Soviet-designed T-82 tanks, 40 multi-barrelled rocket launchers, two mine-clearing tanks, and several fuel trucks heading west toward the central mountains and Beirut after crossing into Lebanon.

Other military sources said the reinforcements deployed along mountain ridges above the Baabda Presidential Palace and on the green line, which divides Beirut into eastern and western sectors.

Syria, the main power-broker in Lebanon, has had 400,000 troops on 70 per cent of Lebanese territory under a 1976 Arab League peacekeeping mandate.

It supports newly elected President Elias Hrawi, a Maronite Catholic, and a cabinet of national reconciliation under Prime Minister Salim Hoss, a Sunni Muslim, which is seeking to implement a peace plan to end 14 years of civil war.

Aoun, 54, has opposed the Arab League-backed peace accord, approved by parliament last month. He rejected as "unconstitutional" Hrawi's election Friday because the parliament

session was held in the shadow of "Syrian occupation."

Aoun, a Maronite, has demanded a Syrian withdrawal as a precondition for any settlement.

Hrawi dismissed Aoun a head of an interim military cabinet Sunday and gave him 48 hours to leave the Baabda palace, traditional seat of Lebanese presidents, or face a lightning assault.

On Tuesday, a government statement fired Aoun as army commander.

Aoun's aide, who refused to be named, said by telephone that the general "considers the decision to replace him with officer Lahoud null and void because it is unconstitutional."

The government statement appointed Adm. Emil Lahoud, 53, also a Maronite, as commander of the 42,000-strong armed forces, split along sectarian lines.

Aoun commanded some 20,000 mainly Christian units during a six-month battle against the Syrians that was halted Sept. 22 by an Arab League-backed ceasefire.

The 22,000 poorly equipped Muslim soldiers under Maj.-Gen. Sami Khatib remained neutral in the battle in which nearly 1,000 people were killed.

The government move was aimed at reuniting the armed forces under Lahoud, parallel to Hrawi's efforts to form a strong central government to end Lebanon's turmoil.

Lahoud was commander of Lebanon's small navy. He graduated from Lebanon's military academy in 1959 and later trained in Britain and attended a course in higher military studies in the United States.

Defence Minister Albert Mansour, speaking to reporters after the cabinet session in the Park Hotel in Shitoura, declared: "As of today, Adm. Lahoud is the commander-in-chief... I call on all the officers and soldiers to be loyal to the new commander."

He warned that officers and men who stayed loyal to Aoun would be dismissed. "Whoever declares loyalty to the legitimate authorities remains a member of the army," Mansour said.

Hoss' new government also dismissed Farouk Abillama, Aoun's closest foreign affairs adviser.

The statement said Lebanon's ambassador to West Germany, Suhail Shammam, was named secretary-general of the Foreign Ministry to replace Abillama. Thousands of young Aoun

loyalists, waving Lebanese flags and banners, formed a human shield around the Baabda Presidential Palace.

"We will never surrender," one placard read in English. "We shall teach the world how nations could be liberated," another read.

One old man danced brandishing a stick and a dagger and declared: "We'll fight, even with such primitive weapons, to prevent the Syrians reaching the general."

"I'll kill all the Christian (parliamentary) deputies who elected Elias Hrawi president," he shouted as young men applauded.

"The general is the symbol of our independence. If the Syrians want to kill him, they'll have to kill us first," said Aoun loyalist Michel Hayek, a university student.

A jet fighter streaked over Baabda at high altitude, drawing anti-aircraft fire from both Christian and Muslim gunners before it flew away over the Mediterranean.

A spokesman for Aoun's command, speaking on condition of anonymity, said it was a Syrian MiG-23.

Gazans stage strike

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Tens of thousands of Palestinians staged a general strike Tuesday in the occupied Gaza Strip, and three protesters were wounded in clashes with soldiers, reports said.

In the West Bank, activists reportedly stabbed and seriously injured a Palestinian, accusing him of collaborating with Israel.

Reports initially said the victim, Hilar Sirsi, 38, had died, basing their claim on the man's wife Dalal, 29, who witnessed the assault. But neighbours later brought home Sirsi, who was in serious condition with stab wounds, the reports said.

Sirsi was accused by uprising activists of telling Israeli officials the whereabouts of two wanted Palestinians who were later captured by soldiers in a pre-dawn raid.

After the attack, masked activists from a group known as the "black panthers" roamed the cash area in Nablus, confiscating telephones that they claimed Palestinian informers used to contact the army, the reports said.

Troops also raided several villages near the West Bank town of Ramallah, arresting 20 suspects, reports said.

The general strike in Gaza closed shops and brought public transportation to a halt. The action was called by the uprising leaders to mark Wednesday's anniversary of the U.N. decision in 1947 to partition Palestine, which led to Israel's creation a year later.

The strike was postponed until next week in the West Bank because final exams were being given to high school students in

the area.

Soldiers served notice to five families in the West Bank and Gaza that the army planned to bulldoze their homes because family members were involved in attacks, reports said.

One home in the West Bank town of Ramallah belonged to the family of Ahmad, 25, who was jailed two months ago after attempting to assault a bus driver and run the vehicle off a cliff.

Reporters first said Shmuri's home had already been demolished, but later said lawyers obtained a last-minute court order to delay the action so the family could remove its furniture.

Army figures show that at least 244 homes of Palestinian suspects have been destroyed during the uprising and another 116 sealed.

Israeli troops forced their way into a United Nations clinic in the Gaza Strip Monday and tried to arrest a Palestinian receiving emergency treatment for a serious gunshot wound, a U.N. spokeswoman said.

But the army denied the allegation.

United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) spokeswoman Claire Grimes said the soldiers beat two employees at the clinic in the Bureij refugee camp. She said they may have suffered broken bones.

The 18-year-old youth, identified by Palestinians as Mohammad Hisham Nasser, was brought to the clinic suffering from an army bullet wound in the upper arm which had apparently severed an artery, Grimes said.

She said the soldiers then forced their way into the clinic and attempted to arrest the youth, who was bleeding profusely.

"The soldiers were trying to

pull him off the emergency bed."

A foreign member of the large Palestinian UNRWA staff persuaded the soldiers to leave but when the youth was later being transferred to hospital, the soldiers detained the ambulance for 10 minutes, Grimes said.

Elsewhere on Monday, the Muslim fundamentalist movement Hamas said it was kidnapped and killed two Israeli soldiers this year, adding that it still held the body of one of them.

In its 50th leaflet issued during the uprising, Hamas said it would not be deterred by the arrest of its leader Sheikh Ahmad Yassin and hundreds of the group's activists.

Yassin, the 52-year-old crippled, spiritual leader of Hamas, was charged earlier this month with killing soldiers Avi Sasportas and Ilan Saadon, kidnapped while hitch-hiking in southern Israel. He was arrested along with some 250 Hamas activists in May.

"Hamas had planned and executed the kidnapping and killing of the two soldiers without anyone involved being caught. And it still keeps the body of soldier Ilan Saadon until today," the leaflet said.

Israeli troops rounded up more than 150 Palestinians for questioning in the West Bank town of Bethlehem after empty bottles were thrown at an army patrol, the army spokeswoman's office said. Four of those questioned were detained, it said.

A homemade pipebomb exploded outside a bank in a shopping centre in Haifa while police tried to disperse it. Two parked automobiles were damaged, but there were no injuries, police said.

Egypt presents Mubarak proposal to U.N. chief

CAIRO (Agencies) — Egypt has presented to United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar a 10-point Middle East plan which was under study by Israel and the Palestinians, the Middle East News Agency (MENA) said.

The plan, drawn up by President Hosni Mubarak, was sent to Israel last July and was in effect a list of 10 questions seeking to clarify the election proposal put forth by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir in May.

MENA quoted Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid as saying he sent the initiative to Perez de Cuellar in a letter explaining current Middle East peace efforts.

Following are the 10 points as translated by Reuters from Arabic:

1. All citizens in the West Bank and Gaza, including those living in Arab Jerusalem, must participate in the elections. Any person who was not convicted of any crime, could also be nominated.

This would give the chance for those under "administrative detention" to take part in the polls.

2. The freedom to conduct election campaigns before and during the polls.

3. International supervision on the elections.

4. Prior commitment from the Israeli government to accept the results of the elections.

5. The Israeli government must accept that the elections would be part of efforts which would lead not only to a transitional period, but also to a final settlement. All efforts from beginning to end will be based on a solution according to the United States' concept, i.e. U.N. Resolutions 242 and 338, the principle of exchanging land

for peace, and security guarantees for all states in the region, including Israel as well as safeguarding Palestinians' political rights.

6. The Israeli army must withdraw during the polls to a distance of one kilometre at least, beyond the range of polling centres.

7. Israelis are forbidden to enter the West Bank and Gaza Strip on election day. Entrance would be limited to those people who work there and settlement residents.

8. Preparatory periods for the elections must not exceed two months. A joint Palestinian and Israeli committee will prepare for the elections and the United States and Egypt could help in the composition of this committee.

9. The United States must give guarantees to all the above points with a prior declaration to that effect from the Israeli government.

10. Halt to the construction of settlements.

Perez de Cuellar has proposed that the Security Council renew its commitment to Resolutions 242 and 338, providing a territory-for-peace solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

In a written report on the Middle East situation, he said he continued to be "troubled by declarations that question the applicability of Security Council resolution 242 (1967)."

Perez de Cuellar did not say which declarations he was referring to.

Moves on 242, 338



Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Tuesday confers with Arab League Secretary-General Chadi Klibi (centre) in a meeting attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasbi (Petra photo).

Sharif Zeid, Klibi discuss peace efforts, Lebanon and Sudan

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Tuesday discussed with the Arab League Secretary General Chadi Klibi the latest developments in the Middle East and efforts to push the peace process forward.

At a meeting attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasbi, Sharif Zeid also discussed with Klibi efforts to end the Lebanese crisis and to ensure the sovereignty and independence of Lebanon and the restoration of peace and stability to the country. Discussions also dealt with the situation in South Sudan and the efforts being mounted to put an end to the fighting there.

Klibi voiced his appreciation of the speech from the throne which His Majesty King Hussein made at the opening of the first ordinary session of the 11th Parliament

Monday. Klibi noted that the King's speech "reflects the comprehensive perspective and the keen interest to serve pan-Arab causes and to achieve the higher Arab objectives."

Klibi left Amman for Cairo later Tuesday.

Solidarity with Palestinians

In Tunis, the Arab League General Secretariat Tuesday called on the international community to pursue its efforts to secure the Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and to pave the ground for holding an international peace conference on the Middle East.

In a statement issued on the eve of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People Wednesday, the secretari-

at stressed the right of the Palestine Liberation Organisation as the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people to participate in the proposed conference on equal footing with all parties concerned with the conflict in accordance with the United Nations resolutions in this regard.

The statement noted that the "celebration of this day aims to focus world attention on the pressing need for finding a just, comprehensive and durable solution to the Palestine question, based on the full recognition of the rights of the Palestinian people."

The statement also said that the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian people comes at a time when the infidels in the occupied territories is about to enter its third year.

OPEC clinches majority deal

VIENNA (R) — The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) struck a deal Tuesday to take some excess oil off the market and petroleum prices rose in reaction even though one big Gulf producer, the United Arab Emirates, said it would ignore the accord.

Key OPEC ministers hoped a new set of output quotas would cut the flow of OPEC crude oil from more than 23 million barrels daily now by at least 750,000 next spring, despite the UAE voicing reservations and saying it would continue to determine its own output volume.

At least, OPEC got another big Gulf producer, Kuwait, which had lately joined the UAE in flouting the rules, back in its quota system — with a pledge to cut its output.

New York futures prices rose a quick 15 cents on the OPEC news, taking the U.S. benchmark grade of crude oil, west Texas intermediate, almost to \$19.80 per barrel.

"Yes, we have an agreement," said a beaming Hisham Nazer, the minister of OPEC's biggest producer, Saudi Arabia, after nearly six days of hotel suite haggling.

Nazer said the agreement was a landmark in the history of the oil cartel, which has been struggling for years to control the flow of oil from the Middle East.

The agreement was reached after a series of meetings in Vienna, where OPEC ministers have been working to reach a deal to cut oil production.

The deal would require OPEC to cut production by 2.5 million barrels per day over the next three years.

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Efforts to upgrade PLO status under U.S. threat

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — Arab states plan to urge the General Assembly this week to upgrade the status of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) at the world body, but faces stiff opposition from the United States.

The plan, if adopted, would give the PLO national observer status and would amount to recognition of Palestine as a nation.

Dr. Riyad Mansour, the PLO's deputy permanent observer, said the request would come in connection with the General Assembly's debate on the Palestinian issue, starting Wednesday.

The PLO currently has observer status as an organisation at the General Assembly, which voted in 1974 to endorse it as the "sole representative of the Palestinian people." The only other organisation currently holding organisational observer status is the Namibian rebel group SWAPO.

National observer status is currently held by North and South Korea, Monaco, the Vatican, San Marino and Switzerland. Under

that status, the PLO would not have voting rights and would not be able to address the General Assembly unless invited.

But the United States has threatened to cut off all funding to the United Nations if it upgraded the observer status of the PLO.

The threat was made in a statement by State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler.

"The PLO's current status is that of observer organisation. We understand that there are efforts now to change that status," said Tutwiler.

"We are making clear in worldwide bilateral demarches (contacts) as well as in conversations at the highest level of the U.N. that any actions to change the PLO's status will have the most serious adverse consequences for the U.N.," she said.

Asked to elaborate, Tutwiler added: "I was told that we feel so strongly about this that we will cut off funding."

Czech premier urges end to party monopoly

PRAGUE (Agencies) — Czechoslovak Prime Minister Ladislav Adamec called Tuesday for abolition of the Communist Party's political monopoly and formation of a new government including non-Communists.

The premier of the federal government promises that by Dec. 3, 1989, he will propose to the president of the republic the appointment of a new government.

Minister without Portfolio Marius Calfa announced.

The government would have a broad coalition base in which Communists and other political parties would be represented, Calfa told a news conference.

"Secondly, the federal government will propose to the federal assembly... taking out (from the constitution) the article providing for the leading role of the party," the minister said after Adamec held two hours of talks with the opposition movement Civic Forum.

In further signs of Communist Party acquiescence to opposition demands and mounting pro-democracy protests, former party chief Milos Jakes formally resigned as head of the National Defence Council. The head of the federal parliament, Alois Indra, also stepped down.

Both Jakes and Indra lost their political seats Friday in a reshuf-

file in which three others associated with hardline policies also were dropped from power.

Calfa, in a brief statement to reporters shown on national television, said the government also would ask parliament to drop constitutional provisions binding four allied political parties to the Communists.

Until now, these parties have been docile allies of the Communists. In recent weeks, they have exercised more independence, especially the Socialist Party and its daily Svobodne Slovo newspaper.

The newspaper condemned a Nov. 17 police crackdown on protesters that left scores injured, helping spark increased protests that led to huge demonstrations by workers and students throughout the country.

Calfa said constitutional requirements that education must be on Marxist-Leninist principles also would be dropped.

In addition, he said, Prague city authorities would be instructed to provide the Civic Forum movement with facilities for its activities. Civic Forum members refused to give details to reporters as they left the meeting, which Calfa said started in an "excited" atmosphere and ended in a constructive spirit aiming to solve problems.

'Surgical option' against Aoun needs sharp knives

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — Having served an ultimatum on defiant army chief Michel Aoun to give up in the ongoing confrontation in Lebanon and heard a resounding rejection, new Lebanese President Elias Hrawi is left with little other option than making good his threat to use force against the Maronite Catholic general, according to observers and analysts here.

But the paramount question is: Can Hrawi hope to neutralise Aoun, who is holed up in the presidential palace in Baabda near Beirut with an unknown number of loyalist troops guarding him? If so, can the president do it with the minimum number of casualties and without sparking another round of civil war with the right Lebanese Forces militia thrown into the bargain?

Most analysts agree that the most logical option for Hrawi is to score a symbolic point against Aoun through demolishing the presidential palace in Baabda. Obviously, he will have to seek help from

outside forces, namely Syria, to do the job for him.

Simply, an assault on the presidential palace will not be more than a symbolic gesture against the seat of power in Lebanon, but "that should serve the purpose for Hrawi to affirm that he means business," according to an Arab diplomat in Amman.

But, with thousands of Aoun supporters surrounding the shell-pocked mansion south east of Beirut in an air strike aimed at demolishing the centuries-old structure seems to have been raised by military experts interviewed by the Jordan Times were unanimous in agreeing that any Syria action against the palace, where Aoun is holed up, could come only after an open request by Hrawi and even at that Damascus would not launch any action before consulting other Arab states.

At the same time, reports from Beirut indicate that the Syrians are digging in their heels around the strategic Souk Al Gharb ridge which could serve as a gate to Baabda.

"There is no reason to expect the

Syrians and their allies in Lebanon to launch an all-out assault against the Christian heartland in Lebanon," said Brigadier-General (retired) Mohammad Jambour. "A symbolic attack on the Baabda palace, either from the air or over the land through Souk Al Gharb appears to be the option for Syria."

"It will be enough for Hrawi to ensure that the palace is completely destroyed," Jambour told the Jordan Times. "This will serve the purpose of demoralising the army units loyal to Aoun and show them who has the upper hand." said the former army officer, a Sandhurst graduate in 1953 who retired from active service in 1974 after serving as chief of training for the Jordanian Armed Forces.

An air assault is the best means to destroy the palace, but with the possible civilian casualties it could bring, the only option available to the Syrians and their allies is a "pinpoint" attack across Souk Al Gharb, according to Brigadier-General Farouk Abdeen, former inspector general of the Jordanian Air Force.

Abdeen also ruled out a helicopter

borne commando raid on Baabda. "It will be very costly," he said.

"Aoun and his forces have very good air defences and they could inflict really serious damages on the attackers." It is an opinion also shared by Abdeen.

But, if the situation could allow for an air strike, "the job could have been done in a matter of five or six minutes with six or eight fighter planes," said Abdeen, who retired in March this year.

Jambour and Abdeen differ on whether the Syrians could use some form of harmless gas to disperse the crowd around the palace before launching an air strike. While Jambour sees it as possible, Abdeen says, "it is not practical because of several factors: it will be very risky for the aircraft involved since they will be flying low against air defences, the results are not certain and there are no precedents to offer details of the effects of such an operation."

One of the marginal options to any assault on Baabda is "smart weapons," Abdeen said. "But even with an accuracy margin of five metres with guided rockets the

casualties will be very high," he added. "If I was asked to make a choice, I will rule out any air action at all as long as the people remain around the palace." That leaves the only option of a land assault from Souk Al Gharb, with diversionary tactics on the southern end of the "green line" dividing Beirut and other confrontation lines around the Aoun enclave, according to Peter Gerner, who lived in Beirut for several years before moving to Cairo. But, "whoever is mounting the attack will have to pay heavily before getting to Baabda through the heavily fortified villages on the way," he said.

Surprise was an element which could help the Syrians and allied militiamen to push their way through to Baabda. But, with the shape of things so clearly set out in the last 10 days, "there is very little of surprise left for anyone," said a Western military attaché in Amman. "If anything, Aoun may have a surprise in store for the Syrians."

Aoun claims the support of about 15,000 mostly Christian army units, but there could be a snafu in their

loyalty, waving Lebanese flags and banners, formed a human shield around the Baabda Presidential Palace.

"We will never surrender," one placard read in English. "We shall teach the world how nations could be liberated," another read.

One old man danced brandishing a stick and a dagger and declared: "We'll fight, even with such primitive weapons, to prevent the Syrians reaching the general."

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A spokesman for Aoun's command, speaking on condition of anonymity, said it was a Syrian MiG-23.

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Khartoum rules out secession for south

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Sudan's military leader, General Omar Hassan Al Bashir, has ruled out secession for South Sudan ahead of peace talks with southern rebels starting in Kenya Friday.

"There is no Sudanese official who can agree on establishing a separate state in the south. It is not acceptable," Bashir told a news conference in Khartoum late Monday.

"But there are alternatives which southern Sudanese are talking about."

Rebels of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) have been fighting since 1983 to end what they see as domination of the mainly Christian or animist south by the Muslim, Arabised north.

The Qatar News Agency said Bashir arrived in Doha Tuesday on the second leg of a Gulf tour. He will also visit Bahrain.

Bashir said his talks in Kuwait with the emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah, and Crown Prince Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah focused on bilateral ties and were positive.

Meanwhile Sunday's 5-month-old military regime is saddled with its first strike this week, by government doctors, and students took to the streets in the first anti-government demonstration.

Doctors left their jobs Sunday and vowed not to work for a week to protest detention of colleagues in military jails, witnesses said.

Mass protests have brought

down two military governments in Sudan's almost 34 years of independence, including, in 1985, the last previous one, headed by Jaafar Numeiri.

With that in mind, the military junta that took power on June 30 enacted laws that would allow execution of people engaging in illegal strikes.

Government spokesman Ali Shummo, the information minister, on Tuesday played down the importance of the doctors' strike. He said it involved only "a minority" of doctors.

Striking doctors denied that, claiming support of colleagues working in public and private hospitals and clinics. But a tour of Khartoum's main government hospitals showed that work had hardly been affected.

The strikers said six of their colleagues were arrested after beginning the walkout, but the government has announced no arrests.

Doctors speaking on condition of anonymity said a one-week strike was proclaimed in Khartoum and Wad Medani, capital of Sudan's central region, to protest dismissal of physicians from government posts and to demand the release of doctors arrested this month.

Informed sources said the military fired 18 doctors and 37 diplomats on Nov. 16 "in the

public interest," which the sources indicated involved their leftist political leanings. The government never confirmed the report.

Strikers said the decision to walk out of the medical facilities followed the arrest of several dismissed colleagues.

One of the six allegedly taken into custody during the strike is Abdul Rahman Abdul Kal, President of the Medical Association, which the junta disbanded in early July along with other trade unions, professional organisations and political parties.

A statement by the strikers vowed that "a complete work stoppage as from next Saturday" could result from arrests. Organisers will "evaluate the situation" at a general meeting Saturday, it said.

Witnesses said about 400 university students took to the streets in Monday's demonstration protesting among other things continued detention of political and labour leaders. There were unconfirmed reports of several arrests.

It was the first such street trouble since Bashir overthrew Prime Minister Sadek Al Mahdi's civilian government.

Informed sources speak of more than 100 political detainees in Sudan, including Mahdi. But last week, a member of the 15-member ruling junta, Col. Bakri Hassan Salih, said that the number of political detainees "does not exceed 50."

Rafsanjani: navy acquired 'vital equipment'

NICOSIA (AP) — Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani disclosed Monday that his country has acquired vital equipment that will boost its navy.

The official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) quoted Rafsanjani as saying the "new vital equipment... will greatly boost naval potentials."

The agency, monitored in Nicosia, said Rafsanjani made the statement in a meeting in Tehran with senior navy officers. "This equipment will give new dimensions to the navy which it lacked before," it quoted him as saying.

He told naval commander, Rear Admiral Ali Shamkhani, that "a new model of sea combat is about to appear, something unparalleled anywhere in the world," IRNA said.

Rafsanjani did not elaborate on the new acquisition. But Western military analysts believe he was referring to ship-based Chinese-made Silkorm missiles. Iran had purchased as many as 100, land-based anti-ship Chinese missiles in 1986.

Chinese warships have carried Silkorms for more than 20 years. But Iranian ships lacked the design to launch the long-range high-powered projectiles.

Western analysts say the Iranians are believed to have tested a Silkorm from an amphibious pad earlier this year. According to the analysts, who spoke on condition of anonymity, the Iranians may have succeeded in making modifications to fire Silkorms off their ships.

China, which was one of Iran's major arms suppliers in the 8-year Gulf war, has denied it sold Silkorms to Tehran. The Silkorm, the Chinese version of the Soviet SS-N-2C Styk anti-ship weapons, is known as the Hai Ying HY-2.

It has a range of up to 80 kilometres, and can carry warheads of up to 453 kilograms of high explosives.

Although the Iranians have made some gains in developing their fledgling arms industry, analysts believe China may have helped Tehran in adapting Silkorms.

Faced with an arms embargo by the United States and other Western countries during the Gulf war, the Iranians became especially adept at modifying their existing weapons to use with other war material they purchased from China, the Soviet Union and other non-Western countries.

Shamkhani, the former Revolutionary Guards minister, was installed as the new navy commander by Iran's spiritual leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei last month as part of the military reform.

His appointment followed the merger of the Revolutionary Guards Ministry and the Defence Ministry, which oversees Iran's regular forces, earlier this year to streamline the military chain of command.

Khamenei has said the two forces will not be merged beyond the administration level, but Rafsanjani said Monday that once the Revolutionary Guards Marine units were merged with the navy "our defence chain in the southern waters of the Gulf will be complete."

Lack of coordination between the Revolutionary Guards and the regular armed forces was one of the main reasons for a spate of battlefield defeats which forced the Iranians to accept ceasefire.

U.N. decline to act as observer to Ethiopian talks

ADDIS ABABA (Agencies) — The United Nations has declined to act as one of seven observers to peace talks between Ethiopia's government and northern rebels, state radio reported Tuesday.

The International body told former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, who is chairing preliminary peace talks, that it could involve itself in cross-border disputes between member countries, but not in internal affairs, according to the broadcast.

The broadcast quoted an unidentified member of the government delegation attending the second round of preliminary talks, which began in Nairobi, Kenya, on Nov. 20. Carter initiated the talks in Atlanta, Georgia in September.

Delegates to the talks reportedly had wrapped up arrangements for a peace conference aimed at ending the 28-year-old war in Eritrea and were only awaiting responses from the seven parties asked to act as observers.

It was not known whether they had received any other responses.

Each side proposed two observers to the substantive talks while the remaining three participants were mutually selected, according to the broadcast.

The rebels chose the United Nations and the Organisation of African Unity, while the government chose Senegal and Zimbabwe, according to the broad-

cast. Kenya, Tanzania and Sudan were also invited, it said.

The substantive talks are expected to begin in January, but Carter said Sunday that the date and site had not been agreed on. He will co-chair the talks with Julius K. Nyerere, former president of Tanzania.

Meanwhile in Geneva, diplomatic and aid sources said Tuesday that the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), expelled in a blaze of publicity from northern Ethiopia last year, might be quietly allowed back under the combined pressure of drought and war.

They said the government appeared to realise the need for help from all quarters as it faces a famine as bad as the one of 1984-85, in which more than one million people died, made worse by intense fighting between rebel groups and the army.

The ICRC and all other relief workers were ordered out of Eritrea and Tigray provinces and surrounding areas in April 1988. The government eventually let other agencies back in but, accusing the ICRC of having made unsubstantiated charges about government restrictions on its work, told the ICRC it must let the Ethiopian Red Cross run its operations in the area.

The sources said the ICRC sent a delegation to the northern provinces in October at the government's request to survey the need

for assistance. "They have patched up their difficulties and have begun cooperating again," an African diplomat said.

A senior U.N. official estimated last week that four million people in the north will need emergency food aid in the next year, twice the number previously thought.

The Ethiopian government disputes the figure.

"The harvest was very poor, so they don't have any (grain) reserves, and the fighting has increased," one relief worker commented.

The sources said the ICRC had not been able to go behind rebel lines but had an idea of the needs there from talking to representatives of the rebel Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) and the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF).

An ICRC official said the organisation had submitted a proposal to both guerrilla groups and to the government to distribute food and visit prisoners-of-war on both sides of the lines. The ICRC is awaiting their responses.

The agency is proposing to help feed about 400,000 people in government-held areas in Eritrea, Tigray, Gondar and Wollo provinces and an unknown number in rebel-held territory.

It would also visit about 28,000 prisoners held by the rebels and a much smaller number held by the

government.

"We have proposed the areas where we are the only organisation able to go because of the fighting," the ICRC official said.

In London, a British aid agency said Monday that Ethiopia's devastating famine of five years ago could be repeated unless there is massive help from world governments.

"Unless food is moving in the next few weeks we could see a repeat of the mass starvation of five years ago," Oxfam spokesman John Magrath said.

He said the major problem was in areas where rebels were fighting government troops. Some food was being distributed by the rebels via Sudan to eastern and central Tigray but their trucks were too old for mountainous passes and dirt roads.

"What we need is a massive investment from government donors but the situation is diplomatically delicate. Governments don't want to be seen to be openly siding with the rebels," he added.

"The drought this year is the worst since 1984 and we have asked the British government to urge the Ethiopians to open the roads," Magrath said.

"If the Ethiopian government would just open roads through the war zone more food could be distributed. We have 30 trucks waiting behind government lines which we can't use," he added.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS BRIEFS

Israeli navy captures 2 guerrillas

TEL AVIV (R) — The Israeli navy has captured two guerrillas after intercepting a yacht off the coast of Lebanon, the army said Tuesday. The yacht was released and continued to its destination in Lebanon, an army statement said. Israeli army radio said the navy carried out similar operations against yachts sailing from Cyprus to Lebanon twice in the past year, first in April and the second time three weeks ago. In both cases guerrillas were taken to Israel for questioning, it said. An army spokesman said he could not release details on the latest operation and would not say where the yacht had originated.

Iraqi minister ends Bahrain visit

BAHRAIN (R) — Iraqi Defence Minister General Abdul Jabbar Shanshal ended a three-day visit to Bahrain Tuesday, saying his talks had been constructive. The Gulf News Agency said Shanshal met Bahrain's Crown Prince Sheikh Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and Defence Minister Sheikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa. He arrived in Bahrain Saturday on his first reported visit to this Gulf state since a U.N.-sponsored ceasefire ended the eight-year long Iran-Iraq war in August last year. Bahrain is a member of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), a political and economic alliance with Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. The GCC generally supported Iraq during its conflict with Iran.

Prizes awarded to Arab poets, writers

BAGHDAD (R) — Five Arab poets and writers were awarded prizes totalling \$150,000 in Iraq for their contributions to Arab literature. Baghdad Television said the prizes were distributed at the Baghdad Mirbad Poetry Festival attended by 1,000 poets, writers and critics. The winners were Nouri Hammoudi Al Qaisi from Iraq, Ahmad Mukhtar Omar and Fathi Ghanim from Egypt, Mohammad Al-Fatouri from Sudan and Mohammed Muthaf from Morocco. They were selected from among 100 candidates.

China to take part in Riyadh show

RIYADH (R) — China will display industrial and agricultural products at a show in Saudi Arabia for the first time since the two countries exchanged commercial offices early this year. Saudi Arabia has no diplomatic ties with communist China, but the two have improved trade relations. More than 50 companies will take part in the show due to open on Dec. 5. It will display Chinese electronics, cars, carpets and agricultural products, a source at the Chinese Trade Office in Riyadh said. He said models of Chinese-made missiles, ships and satellites would also be on display at the show, sponsored by Saudi Commerce Minister Suleiman Abdul Aziz Al Salim. A team of Chinese businessmen would hold talks with Saudi officials to try to boost trade relations, he added. Saudi Arabia exports petrochemicals and fertilizers to Peking.

10 die in Turkish bus accident

ANKARA (R) — A passenger bus plunged into a ravine in eastern Turkey Tuesday, killing 10 people and wounding 30, the semi-official Anatolian News Agency said. The accident occurred in the early morning near Refahiye town in Erzurum province. The cause was not known.

Klibi pays 1st Cairo visit in ten years

CAIRO (R) — The Arab League's secretary-general arrived in Cairo Tuesday on his first visit since Egypt was readmitted to Arab ranks after a 10-year boycott over its 1979 peace treaty with Israel.

"I am visiting Cairo for the first time since I became secretary-general," Chadi Klibi, who received a third five-year mandate in March, told reporters on arrival at Cairo airport.

"This is a happy chance which I want to seize. I want to direct my affection to the Egyptian people for their sacrifices over the years."

Almost all Arab states broke ties with Egypt after it made peace with Israel and the Arab League's headquarters was moved from Cairo to Tunis.

But all except Libya and Syria have now resumed relations and Egypt, reemerging onto the centre stage of Middle East politics, was readmitted to the 22-member body last May.

Klibi did not say what he would discuss with President Hosni Mubarak and Egyptian officials during his six-day visit.

Arab diplomats doubted whether his talks would cover an estimated \$50 million in Arab League funds frozen by Egypt after the Arab boycott or the possible return of the League's headquarters to Cairo.

One diplomat said he did not think the flags of the League and Israel could ever be flown side by side in Cairo, suggesting that there were no current plans to move the headquarters from Tunis.

Foreign Ministry sources said Klibi would visit Cairo's League building, the permanent Arab League seat according to its charter. The dusty brown building, which Egyptian officials say is in good operating condition, is being repainted ahead of a meeting of Arab interior ministers this week.

In Tunis, a \$30-million complex for a new League headquarters is being built and Arab diplomats in Cairo said it was still too early for the secretariat to return to Egypt.

Egypt, the only Arab country to have relations with Israel, is playing a central mediating role in trying to bring Israelis and Palestinians to the negotiating table.

It also gained prominence when Mubarak was appointed chairman of the Organisation of African Unity this year.

Poland to restore ties with Israel next year

WARSAW (R) — Poland wants to restore diplomatic relations with Israel in early 1990 after a break of 22 years, a Polish government spokesman said Tuesday.

"There is a will to restore relations and it is almost sure that we will do so in the first quarter of next year," deputy government spokesman Henryk Wozniakowski said.

The announcement coincided with a visit by Israeli Vice-Premier Shimon Peres to Poland.

Poland and most other East European states severed ties with Israel over the 1967 Middle East war. Warsaw renewed low-level ties in 1986 and Hungary restored full diplomatic relations in September.

"The final decision requires a letter from the president," the spokesman said. He added that formal procedures had not yet begun.

Confirmation of the Polish decision also came from Peres, the highest-ranking Israeli official to visit Warsaw since 1967.

He told the Solidarity newspaper Gazeta Wyborcza that Polish Foreign Minister Krzysztof Skubiszewski had told him Warsaw had decided to restore ties.

"Skubiszewski said there is already a Polish decision on re-establishing relations in the first quarter of 1990," Peres said in the interview published Tuesday.

Israel has an "interests section" in Warsaw. Although not officially listed, its head, Mordechai Palzur, is invited to official functions and is allowed to use the title of ambassador.

Abu Nidal 'suffering from cancer'

ALGIERS, Algeria (AP) — Abu Nidal, one of the most feared Palestinian guerrilla leaders, is hospitalised in Tripoli with what Algerian sources described Tuesday as "terminal cancer."

One Algerian medical source who recently returned from Libya denied a report published in New York that Abu Nidal, who has lived in Libya since his 1987 expulsion from Syria, has been placed under house arrest by Libyan police in response to pressure from Egypt and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

"In reality, Abu Nidal is in a military hospital in Libya suffering from a cancerous metastase which is probably terminal," the Algerian physician said. He insisted that his name be withheld.

A metastase is cancerous tissue which transmits the infection throughout the body. Other Algerian sources recalled that Abu Nidal was treated in Bulgaria for cancerous complications several years ago. The sources attributed the report of his arrest by the Libyan authorities to Cairo or to Tripoli itself to conceal the severity of his illness.

The Algerian doctor was summoned to Tripoli a week ago for consultations with a Libyan colleague, but he denied having seen Abu Nidal himself.

Abu Nidal, whose real name is Sabri Al Banna, is wanted for alleged terrorist acts in countries throughout the world.

At 52, he allegedly played a leading role in the attack on the Israeli delegation at the 1972 Olympic Games in Munich, the hijacking of an Egyptian airliner to Malta resulting in the death of 56 passengers during an Egyptian rescue attempt in 1985, and the

coordinated attacks on airline passengers in Rome and Vienna in December, 1985.

Altogether, nearly 1,000 people have been killed or wounded in 20 countries due to activities by Abu Nidal's dissident group. Abu Nidal's organisation, the Fateh Revolutionary Council, has been at odds with the PLO for many years. Many of its major leaders have defected to the main body of the PLO recently, leaving Abu Nidal increasingly isolated.

In October 1973, a "war tribunal" of the Palestine Liberation Organisation sentenced its former representative in Baghdad, Abu Nidal, to death for armed sedition, murder of PLO members, violating the "laws of the revolution" and provoking conflicts within the organisation.

The sentence was never carried out. Faced with an arms embargo by the United States and other Western countries during the Gulf war, the Iranians became especially adept at modifying their existing weapons to use with other war material they purchased from China, the Soviet Union and other non-Western countries.

Turkey demands extradition of Kurdish guerrillas from Iraq

ISTANBUL (AP) — Turkey has demanded that Iraq track down and extradite the Kurdish guerrillas who killed 28 villagers near the Turkish-Iraqi border.

Iraqi envoy Tarik Jawad was summoned to the Foreign Ministry and told that Turkey also expects Iraq to take the necessary measures to prevent similar incidents in the future, Turkish officials said.

According to official accounts, a group of guerrillas attacked the Ikiyaka village in Hakkari province Friday evening. While one group drew the village guards to the north of the village with rifle fire, another group raided two houses in the southern sector, spraying automatic weapons fire and burning hand grenades.

Twenty people were killed from two families, including 12 children. Interior Minister Abdul Kadir Aksu told reporters in the eastern city of Diyarbakir Monday that the bodies of eight

shepherds kidnapped by the guerrillas during the raid were later found elsewhere near the Iraqi border. Aksu said a ninth shepherd managed to escape.

Officials said that the attackers came in from Iraq and escaped back across the border after the raid.

Aksu said his investigation showed that Armenian groups were also involved in Friday's attack in addition to the PKK, also known as the Kurdish Labour Party, the semi-official Anatolia News Agency reported.

"A written statement with the code name of Hogir was left near the slain villagers after the attack. Cemil Isk, whose codename is Hogir, is of Armenian origin and this shows that there were Armenian terrorist groups besides the PKK (Kurdish Labour Party) which were behind the attacks," Aksu was quoted by the Anatolia as saying.

"This shows that the Armenian

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

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PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children's programme
17:30 Educational programme
18:00 News summary in Arabic
18:05 Cairo news message
18:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic series
21:30 Arabic programme
23:00 News in Arabic
23:40 Play "Pena"

PROGRAMME TWO

18:30 Documentary
19:00 L'Appart
19:05 News in French
19:15 Varieties
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Empty Nest
21:00 All the Rivers Run
23:00 News in English
23:30 News series

PRAYER TIMES

04:59 Fajr
05:47 (Sunrise) Duha
11:24 Dhuhar
14:13 'Asr
16:36 Maghrib
17:59 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swifeth, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrasanta Church Tel. 622356
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772561
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Armenian International Church Tel. 633226
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811205
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 815817, 654952.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
It will be warm and partly cloudy with expected scattered showers in the southern and central regions. Winds will be southeasterly moderate to fresh. In Aqaba, it will be partly cloudy

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

AMMAN:
Dr. Adel Dubdoub 893644
Dr. Asaf Al Ashab 602507
Dr. Tawfiq Qub'a 623029
Dr. Akram Samhoo 894611
Ferdows pharmacy 773636
Al Asma pharmacy 637053
Nakrakh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Samsam pharmacy 637660

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Adel Dubdoub 893644
Dr. Asaf Al Ashab 602507
Dr. Tawfiq Qub'a 623029
Dr. Akram Samhoo 894611
Ferdows pharmacy 773636
Al Asma pharmacy 637053
Nakrakh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Samsam pharmacy 637660

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Emergency 139
Rescue Police 152, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highways Police 894042
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630221
Hotel Complaints 605900
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 897467
Armed Militancy 7771013
Al-Bashir, J. Ashraf 7251126
Malhotra, J. Ashraf 6617114
Shamkhani, J. Ashraf 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Muhsin Hospital 672279
The Islamic, Adabi 66617757
Al-Ahli, Adabi 6661646
Rafsanjani, J. Ashraf 7771013
Al-Bashir, J. Ashraf 7251126
Army, Marfa 89161115
Queen Alla Hospital 60224020
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarga Govt. Hospital 09/983323
Zarga National Hospital 09/991071
Jin Sina Hospital 09/986732
Princess Basma Hospital 02/275555
Greek Catholic Hospital 02/272775
Jin Al Nafes Hospital 02/247108
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital 03/314111

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hamid Medical Centre 81381232
Khadija Maternity, J. Amn. 6428116
Al-Bashir, J. Ashraf 6424112
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhotra, J. Ashraf 636140
Palatine, Shamsat 6617114
Shamkhani, J. Ashraf 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Muhsin Hospital 672279
The Islamic, Adabi 66617757
Al-Ahli, Adabi 6661646
Rafsanjani, J. Ashraf 7771013
Al-Bashir, J. Ashraf 7251126
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Greek Catholic Hospital 02/272775
Jin Al Nafes Hospital 02/247108
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital 03/314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport. Tel. 08/53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
07:00 Amman, New York (RJ)
11:25 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
11:30 Riyadh (RJ)
11:40 London (RJ)
12:45 Aqaba, Cairo (RJ)
13:30 Damascus (RJ)
13:40 Kuwait, Dhahran (RJ)
13:45 Bahrain, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
14:00 New Delhi (RJ

Intifada boosting Arab image in U.S.

By Sami Attieh

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — When the American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) was first established in the United States in 1980, the Arabs were looked upon as "terrorists and corrupt oil-rich sheikhs." But in the 23 months since the Palestinian intifada erupted, the situation has changed and the Arabs are now being shown as "human beings with rights," thus strengthening the ADC position in the U.S., according to ADC President Abdeh Jabara.

"For the first time, the intifada has shown Arabs as human beings who are prepared to use non-violent tactics to win their freedom because it is one of the great civil uprisings in history," Jabara said.

In an interview with the Jordan Times, Jabara, who was in Amman as part of a working visit to the Middle East said that the truth about the Arabs was coming out.

"The American people have witnessed through the intifada the reality of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. There's an incredible new public awareness in the U.S., which has been demonstrated in various public opinion polls," Jabara said.

He added that the ADC was trying to translate the "great amount of public support into a political reality, in which American officials will support the rights of Palestinians just like any other people in the world."

Jabara indicated that a new atmosphere is created in the U.S., in which the once unthinkable there is now thinkable. He referred to a recent forum held on Capitol Hill entitled "Search for Peace in the Middle East" for members of Congress and their aides on foreign affairs. Participants included Edward Saeed, Senator George McGovern, Ambassador Robert Neumann and Philip Klutznick, a prominent Jewish-American leader.

"Every single one of them came out in support of a Palestinian state," Jabara said. "On how little influence public opinion has on foreign policy makers, the ADC president said that if the American people knew the truth about the Arab-Israeli reality, the people would do the 'right' thing. He added that the American foreign-policy makers could only stand against public opinion 'for so long.'"

"In the long run, they have to be responsive to the changed perceptions that exist in the U.S.," he said.

Although pro-Israeli lobbies and organisations are much wealthier and better staffed than the ADC, the intifada has weakened their position and influence, according to Jabara. He stressed that these organisations concentrate on elected officials in their campaigns. Jabara noted how some officials had previously lost in elections because they promoted Palestinian rights.

"Elected officials fear that they will be targeted to lose. Charles Percy and Paul Findley (author of 'They Dare to Speak Out') were made as examples," Jabara explained.

He added that during the last American elections, John Chaffey was targeted to lose by the Israeli lobby — the American-Israeli Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), but he won anyway because a "60 minutes" programme on AIPAC exposed that fact and helped Chaffey in the elections.

Jabara said that pro-Israeli forces continue to try to keep any kind of information about the Palestinian problem and the intifada from the American people.

"These attempts are becoming less successful and more people are beginning to resent the attempts to cut off any kind of balance in terms of presentation," Jabara com-

mented.

He said that the most recent example was the showing of "Days of Rage" on the intifada when the Public Broadcasting Television first dropped it and another station picked it up. When the pro-Israeli forces failed to stop the programme, they succeeded to "have certain wrap-around placed on it, which I think did not in any way diminish the message."

ADC and the intifada

Jabara said the ADC was active in promoting and popularising the intifada among the American public, as well as with elected officials and the State Department. The activities are many but two major campaigns received much success in the U.S.

"We knew it was vitally important for the ADC to initiate a programme in which hundreds of Americans from all walks of life could be witness to what is happening in the occupied territories," he said.

Jabara noted that this decision came after the discovery of a memo of a meeting held by former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger for a number of Jewish-American leaders, where he indicated that he had advised the Israeli government to close down the occupied territories to the media and to crush the intifada. The ADC was able to expose that memo to the media.

Then we initiated the Eye-Witness Israel programme," he explained.

This programme was designed to recruit human rights activists, people involved in church activities, peace advocates, civil rights activists and others to travel and live with Palestinian families in the towns, villages and refugee camps in the occupied territories for three weeks.

After returning to the U.S., the ADC arranged for these witnesses to meet with the State Department, the office of human rights, their congressional representatives, and peace groups and reported what they witnessed of Israel's oppressive practices against the Palestinians. There was also an Eyewitness report that was published by the ADC on the individuals' observations.

Eyewitnesses to the intifada also included congressional aides, as well as lawyers and doctors who examined the conditions in the Ansar III detention camp in the Naqab desert. Another delegation consisted of mayors of American towns named after towns in Palestine.

The most recent ADC campaign for the intifada was the erection of posters in the Washington, D.C. metro system for one month, urging support for Palestinian independence. The posters depicted Palestinian youth carrying the Palestinian flag holding up a victory sign, with the American eagle in the background. The poster read: "Americans fought for freedom and independence in 1776, Palestinians are fighting for these same rights today. Support Palestinian independence. Call or write your congressman today."

Putting up these posters were apparently successful, according to Jabara. "Over 250,000 people ride the D.C. metro cars. We believe that it's a very cost-effective way of getting our message out to many people who are government employees," he said.

Intifada posters were also erected in the D.C. subway system last year, depicting an Israeli soldier beating a Palestinian with a gun. The poster read: "Israel putting your money to work!" The poster explained that the American citizens' money, \$10 million a day, helps Israel violate Palestinian human rights, and urges them to tell their congressperson to "just say no to unconditional aid to Israel."

Conclave demands protection of rights of disabled

By Mariam M. Shalabi
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — In the final session of the three-day conference on the capabilities and needs of disabled in the Western Asia region, Her Majesty Queen Noor expressed hope that the recommendations made at the conference would be followed up and implemented so that disabled persons in this area of the world would be able to lead more fulfilling and integrated lives in their respective societies.

The conference was hosted by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), the United Nations Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs and the Regional Bureau of the Middle East Committee for the Blind, in an effort to discuss and resolve difficulties faced by the 18 million disabled persons in the Arab World and in other parts of Western Asia.

Dr. Riad Tabbarah, head of the ESCWA delegation, said the most important part about the conference may not necessarily be the recommendations, although he said they were very important, but the fact that for the first time disabled people fully participated in a meeting which focused on their specific needs.

He said blind participants received the conference's documentation in braille and they were also given the conference's final recommendations in braille.

Blind participants were provided with sign-language interpreters. "The deaf delegates not only participated but were part of the scientific programme itself, which included researchers, commentators as well as participants," said Tabbarah.

Tabbarah pointed out that the chairman of the meeting, Sheikh Abdullah Ghannem from Kuwait, is blind. "He ran the sessions of the meeting in perfect fashion," Tabbarah said.

Other than the discussions, presentations of working papers, which included individual country studies, the conference included a technical exhibit of products from 15 companies, which produce advanced technical equipment used by the disabled. Although most of the companies were from the West, some were from the Arab World, as well as American, the International Business Machines (IBM) branch in Cairo, which produces wheelchairs,

also participated in the exhibition. The Egyptian orchestra Al Noor Wal Amal (Light and Hope), which consists of 44 blind girls, performed at the Palace of Culture. "The orchestra has an international standard, it has played to the acclaim of European audiences on several occasions but had never performed for an Arab audience outside Egypt up till now," Tabbarah pointed out.

The Jordanian Sports Federation organised a sports competition for the disabled during the conference. Participants from Jordan, Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait and Syria took part in the competition.

"The title of the conference is capabilities and needs of the disabled persons, these events and the full participation of delegates who are disabled showed in the clearest fashion exactly what the capabilities of the disabled are and that alone is worth a million pages of text and recommendations," Tabbarah said with an air of great satisfaction.

Recommendations

In a nine-page text, recommendations and conclusions were presented to the 120 participants on the final day of deliberations. Each recommendation was discussed and heated discussions between participants and the chairman, Sheikh Ghannem, often resulted. Some of the recommendations were then expanded upon and in certain cases changed in accordance with the wishes of the participants.

Very often changes were made to ensure more accurate wording and to define more precise meanings, so that there would be little room for misinterpretation. The main recommendations are as follows:

— Disabled persons should participate in the decision-making process in any legislation passed pertaining to them directly or indirectly.

— A promotion of greater equalisation of opportunities for disabled people in the socio-economic sector should be made not for charitable reasons but rather out of an awareness of the concrete contributions that they are able to make.

— National coordination committees should be formed to assure effective coordination among various ministries, government agencies and non-governmental agencies.

— To hold a series of workshops and regional technical meetings to

define the needs of the disabled in the region beyond 1992 when the global conference for the disabled will be held.

— Programmes should encourage local production of low cost technical aids for disabled persons made from locally available resources.

— Special attention should be given to genetic testing before marriage.

— Systematic programmes which include parents training on prevention, early intervention and rehabilitation should be developed for mothers and family members and caretakers of disabled persons.

— National educational systems on primary, secondary and higher levels should attempt to mainstream disabled students whenever possible in order to fully integrate them instead of the segregation that has often characterised the students in the ESCWA region.

— The need to train sign language interpreters for educational and mass media purposes, as well as to supply educational material in braille and audio-visual aids for the visually impaired was forwarded.

— Urgent need to standardise Arabic sign language was mentioned.

— Special education should be introduced as a module in regular teachers training programmes as well as special educational programmes for children with multiple disabilities.

— Governments should undertake studies of labour market needs in order to adapt vocational training of the disabled to them.

— Governments should attempt to adopt policies of employment promotion of the disabled through the use of quotas, provision of subsidies, tax concessions, and other forms of incentives as well as adopt social security schemes which take social needs of disabled persons into full consideration.

— Special attention to vocational training of the persons with severe mental disabilities.

— High technologies developed in industrial countries should be adapted to meet the local needs and then transferred to the region through staff training.

— Introduction of computers should be promoted for assisting integration of disabled persons in society.

— The local production of appropriate and simplified technolo-

gies for items such as wheelchairs, prosthetic devices and mobility aids should be encouraged and take into account technical, socio-economic and cultural conditions in the given society.

— Continuous efforts should be made to develop an Arab speech recognition system, artificial intelligence and other computer-aided systems. In view of the absence of Arabic language in computer technology and the difficulty involved it is necessary to Arabise computer systems in a way compatible with programmes for the disabled.

— The formulation by concerned institutions of programmes dealing with training of disabled women to perform the various household functions and to provide them with necessary aids for that purpose.

— To take into account in city planning and in building and construction legislations, the conditions that facilitate the movement of the disabled and ensure their safety. This includes, for example, environmental infrastructural services, transportation and the inside and entrances of buildings.

— Formulate educational and media programmes that ensure the promotion of awareness necessary for the acceptance of the disabled in the society and the elimination of prejudices that have persevered in some actions towards the disabled and to facilitate the participation of the disabled in economic activity aid in their complete integration in socio-economic life.

— To encourage scientific research dealing with the adaptation of the physical and social environment and the publication of the results of this research in appropriate fashions for the media, decision makers and the experts.

— The media is considered a principle means for the delivery of needed information to the disabled and for the rehabilitation of the society with a view to accepting the disabled and integrating them overall development plans and programmes.

— It is recommended that international aid and development agencies examine how their development programmes affect the disabled and to what extent these persons benefit from the programmes or have access to them.

— ESCWA is required to establish a separate unit on disability-related

issues to coordinate regional activities in the field and the follow up on the implementation of the recommendations of this conference.

— ESCWA and other specialised agencies are requested to strengthen their regional advisory services in the field of disability, with particular emphasis on data base and research activities, special education and vocational training and the adaptation of the social and physical environment to the needs of the disabled.

— In order to implement the above recommendations, extensive efforts aimed at fund raising should be made. ESCWA, as the agency charged with the coordination of the regional activities of the United Nations agencies in the field of disability is requested to take the initiative in fund raising in order to promote its own activities as well as to work of other international agencies and non-governmental organisations.

Tabbarah felt that the recommendations dealt realistically with the most urgent needs of the disabled in the region. He felt that the ESCWA and specialised U.N. agencies could

now work on an implementation of some of the recommendations made.

"You will see a major thrust in activities in this region as the disabled take on a more important role in participating in society the next few years and beyond," Tabbarah said.

The enthusiasm of all the participants, especially the disabled, which constituted about one-third of all participants, was evident by the packed seminar sessions of the nine-day conference. "A lot of spontaneous side sessions took place and there were a lot of meetings at night," Tabbarah points out.

One future aim of ESCWA, Tabbarah said was to invite disabled delegates to not only conferences and seminars that concern the disabled but that deal with other developmental issues as well. "Many of the disabled participants at this meeting are accomplished engineers, sociologists, economists and other professionals, and to say the least they are on the same footing with their non-disabled counterparts, so we hope to see them in all our future meetings."

Panel to handle licences

AMMAN (Petra) — Public Security Department Director Major-General Fadel Ali Fuhaid Tuesday called for setting up a special committee to deal with requests for issuing replacements for missing driving licences.

The committee, headed by the director of the driver and vehicle

licensing department, will group director of the highway patrol directorate and assistant Amman Police Department director for traffic affairs.

The committee will look into procedures currently being followed for reporting missing driving licences.

Arab sociology talks open in Iraqi capital

BAGHDAD (Petra) — Jordan is participating in the third conference of sociologists which opened in Baghdad Tuesday. The conference, with the slogan of "Toward a Better Arab View of Culture," will discuss the possibility of establishing a number of social establishments in Arab countries and to issue an Arabic-language magazine on sociology.

Opening the three-day conference, the Iraqi minister of labour and social affairs delivered a speech urging Arab sociologists to "effectively play their role and make a profound scientific expression of our cultural and social features." He also called for crystallising a social Arab theory embodying the Arab Nation's history and culture.

Houses begin work on reply to King's speech

AMMAN (Petra) — Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament (Senate) Ahmad Al Lawzi Tuesday chaired a meeting of a Senate committee in charge of preparing the reply to the speech from the Throne. The deputies discussed the speech and the broad guidelines for the reply.

The Lower House's committee met Tuesday to discuss the speech and prepare the guidelines of the reply.

The committee elected deputies Abdullah Al Nsour and Ali Al Faqr as chairman and rapporteur of the committee, in charge of preparing the reply to the speech from the Throne.

Lawzi received congratulatory cables from the speakers of the Shura Council in North Yemen, the Swedish Parliament, Shura and Peoples Assemblies in Egypt. In their cables, the speakers wished Lawzi success in discharging his new duties vested in him.

Lawzi was reappointed speaker by Royal Decree. In his speech after His Majesty King Hussein opened Jordan's 11th Parliament Monday, Lawzi said he looked forward to close cooperation between Lower and Upper Houses as well as good working relationship between the executive and legislative branches.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

KING CONGRATULATES MAURITANIA: His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday sent a congratulatory cable to Mauritania President Muwajyah Weld Sidi Ahmad Al Taye' on his country's national day. The King wished President Muwajyah continued good health and happiness and the Mauritanian people further progress and prosperity (Petra).

DECREE ENDORSES TAX AMENDMENT: A Royal Decree has been issued endorsing an amendment to the consumption tax regulation. The regulation provides for amending the customs duties on 72 consumer items. Another Royal Decree was issued approving the additional tax law and the revised import law (Petra).

AUDIT ASSOCIATION MEETING: A delegation representing the Jordan Audit Association left Amman Tuesday for Tunis to participate in meetings of the Federation of Arab Accountants and Auditors general secretariat. The two-day meeting will discuss means to develop auditing in the Arab countries and set general standards (Petra).

YARMOUK SCIENTIFIC DAY: Yarmouk University President Mohammad Hamdan Tuesday opened a scientific day organised by the university's fine arts faculty. The opening ceremony was attended by university staff and students, in addition to several guests (Petra).

YUGOSLAV NATIONAL DAY: On the occasion of Yugoslavia's national day, the Yugoslavian ambassador, Loran Popovic, will host a reception Nov. 29 (J.T.).

CHRISTMAS PLAY: The Royal Theatre Company, under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Basma will present the play Mother Goose Golden Christmas. The proceeds will aid the Jordanian Save the Children Fund. Performances will begin Nov. 30 and continue until Dec. 5 (J.T.).

ART EXHIBITION: An exhibition of paintings by Ghassan Al Hassani, Adib Atwan and Abdullah Nawabha will be open to the public Nov. 29 at 5:00 p.m. at the Jordanian Plastic Art Association Hall under the patronage of Her Highness Princess Wijdan Ali (J.T.).

'Surgical option' against Aoun

(Continued from page 1)

Western military attacks. "The reinforcements that Syria moved into Beirut and the area near Souk Al Gharb are an indication of Damascus' assessment of the firepower it might need to overpower Aoun."

Another European diplomat, who was stationed in Beirut for over seven years in the late 70s and early 80s, believes that whatever the Syrians might do, "they will steer clear of intruding into the Christian heartland any further than Basbaba simply because any such incursion will not be tolerated by the Lebanese Forces or the Falangist Party — both of whom

have extended tacit support for the Taif accord and the election of Hrawi."

The net scenario that emerges in Lebanon, in the opinion of the observers and analysts here, is that "a surgical operation" against the presidential palace is in the offing, and it could come anytime. At the same time, the possibility is also strong that Hrawi, taking advantage of the renewed French mediation effort, could opt to wait out. However, on the political level, the possibility of Lebanese forces leader Samir Geagea and Falangist chief George Sadeh "cutting a deal with Hrawi" is also very strong.



ON-LINE

A new service by the Arab Bank

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you can now conduct the following banking operations by using the ATM Card

- Draw cash up to JD 400 from your account.
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- Jordan Intercontinental Hotel
- Ashrafieh
- Jubeiha
- Gardens
- Zarqa
- Irbid

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WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ An exhibition of paintings and etchings inspired by Arabic Islamic art at Abdel Hameed Shousha Foundation.
- ★ An art exhibition by artists from Jordan and other Arab countries at Al Wasiti Gallery, Plaza Hotel.
- ★ Book exhibition at the University of Yarmouk.
- ★ A Gem Tree exhibition, by "Latifah Abu Hamdan" at the Exhibition Hall of the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ An art exhibition by Ghassan Al Hassani, Adib Atwan and Abdullah Nawabha at the Jordanian Plastic Artists Association, Shmeisani — 5:00 p.m.

LECTURE

- ★ A lecture entitled "Administrative development in Jordan" by Khalil Al Salem at the Royal Cultural Centre — 5:00 p.m.

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Will the general come to his senses?

LEBANESE President Elias Hrawi and defiant General Michel Aoun were on a collision course as the president's 48-hour ultimatum drew to a close Tuesday. In principle, President Hrawi is right in demanding that General Aoun submit to legitimacy for no central government can tolerate or condone forever a rebellious posture by its army chief. The ideal situation would be to avoid an armed conflict that could cause wounds that would be very hard to heal. At the same time General Aoun should show more willingness to reconcile the differences and should, at least, accept mediation from those who have Lebanon's overall interests at heart. By refusing even to talk to President Hrawi and by insisting on maintaining status quo ante in Lebanon, as if nothing had happened in the past 14 years, General Aoun is only courting catastrophe for himself, his followers and his people. And as long as General Aoun goes on to ridicule the new order in Lebanon, there can be no escape from a military showdown that would reestablish legitimacy all over the Lebanese territories.

It must have dawned on General Aoun by now that all parties and forces that have opted to support the Taif Agreement, which is the basis of the new process in Lebanon, did not necessarily do so out of deep conviction that the agreement was perfect. Many co-religionists of Aoun, including Patriarch Nasrallah Sfeir, have decided to lend their support to the Taif Agreement after weighing all the factors and circumstances and after concluding that on balance the Taif accord offers the only viable and operational formula to put an end to death and destruction in Lebanon. General Aoun has neither the right nor the mandate to reject what so many of his countrymen, including the Lebanese parliament, have accepted. It would have been more prudent of him to put the Taif accord to the real test by accepting a plebiscite on it rather than offering to sacrifice the lives of thousands of Lebanese people to back up his obstinate interpretation of the accord. Surely the general knows that he was neither elected by the people nor recognised by the international community for him to continue his self-defeating crusade against the new tide in Lebanon.

Political medicine sometimes prescribes surgical operations to stop a bleeding or an illness. It is the hope of all mankind that the stage is not irrevocably set for a desperate operation to remove the remaining stumbling bloc to the process of healing in Lebanon. But the more Aoun insists on staying at loggerheads with the majority of the Lebanese people the more imminent will be the projected military showdown between him and President Hrawi.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

ALL Jordanian Arabic dailies on Tuesday discussed His Majesty King Hussein's speech from the throne delivered at the opening of the 11th Parliament.

Al Ra'i Arabic paper gave prominence to the King's stress on Jordan's deep concern over the Palestine issue and the fate of the Palestinian people. The King voiced Jordan's continued efforts to support the rights of the Palestinians and their struggle for freedom, said the paper. The King also pledged continued endeavours world-wide to uphold the right and the identity of the Palestinians in their homeland, and an end to Israeli occupation, added the paper. Al Ra'i also gave prominence to the King's promise to set up a commission to deal with economic crimes and his promise to go ahead with plans to bolster the national economy, end corruption and introduce reform on a large scale. The paper said that the King's address contained a pledge that a national charter will be soon enacted to serve as an umbrella for all political groupings and their activities which should be conducted within the content of national unity, and with the sole purpose of serving the public. The paper said that the opening of Parliament Monday signalled the beginning of a new era for Jordan's democratic rule and for the parliament members to embark on their serious task to serve their nation.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily says that an ultimatum given to Michel Aoun to surrender bears the seeds of great danger since Aoun is not willing to give up his stand nor to succumb to the will of the Syrians. Abdul Rabbih Omar says that if Hrawi carried out his threats Lebanon will be in great danger of an all-out explosion which will cause untold sufferings and further destruction. It is indeed a serious stage through which Lebanon is going at the moment; and it calls for tactical and wise steps on the part of all concerned parties if bloodshed is to be avoided at any cost, says the writer. Omar says that Hrawi seems to be determined to rely on the Syrian army in his bid to regain the presidential palace at Baabda and oust Aoun from his present position. And this could bring about a new round of conflict that would involve different parties like Israel which could be asked by Aoun to give him help in the face of the looming danger. The writer believes that the Arab League which paved the ground for the Parliament meeting and the election of the president should have a hand in this affair, so as to prevent Israel from interference on the one hand, and to enable the parties to reach a settlement on the other.

Al Dustour daily said in its editorial Tuesday that the King's speech from the throne to Parliament Monday outlined all Jordanian achievements over the past years and urged the deputies to pursue the efforts towards the achievement of further accomplishments. The paper dwelt particularly on the Palestine issue and reminded the audience of Jordan's wise decision to sever links with occupied West Bank so as to give boost to the PLO's moves and the struggle of the Palestinian people and the attitude to regain Palestinian rights and independence. The paper also recalled the King's reference to Jordan's endeavours to help Iraq against the Iranian aggression and his mention of the Kingdom's ongoing efforts to bolster solidarity among the Arab states. The speech, the paper said, presented a guideline for the deputies in the coming stage, urging them to pursue the efforts towards strengthening the country's ties with the Arab World and to move ahead with plans for domestic reform.

Painful lessons from a war with human misery

By McGeorge Bundy

AMSTERDAM — The worldwide effort to improve the family planning choices open to the people of developing countries has been constrained by many forces — limited resources, illiteracy, the imperfection of contraceptives, and the existence of deep-rooted convictions that are inconsistent with sensitive and effective family planning.

Such convictions often lead to policy choices that have consequences just the opposite of what their backers hope for. Overenthusiastic or insensitive pressure for birthrate reductions can generate reactions that discredit a programme.

But the case I want to discuss is that of the impact on worldwide population programmes of the American debate over abortion. That impact has been limited, but insofar as American right-to-life efforts have had any effect on the worldwide resort to abortion, that impact has been to increase both its frequency and its cost in maternal suffering and death.

There can be no doubt of the deep sincerity of most of those in the right-to-life movement. They believe passionately that abortion

is an offense against God's word. Not every politician who seeks their support is as deeply persuaded as they are. Most politicians — indeed most Americans — have convictions less categorical than those of the deeply embattled believers in the "right to life" or the sometimes equally embattled believers in unlimited recourse to abortion throughout pregnancy.

The renewed American debate of 1989 suggests that those in the middle, believers in modern contraceptives and skeptical of absolutist views on abortion, will turn out to hold the balance of power.

In the early 1980s, partly because their desire to attack American abortions was at least temporarily constrained by Roe v. Wade, and partly because they had friends in the Reagan administration, right-to-life leaders turned their attention to American support of family planning in developing countries. That programme was then the largest such government enterprise in the world, the product of a happy combination of professional understanding, presidential leadership and public support.

But in 1984, the Reagan administration moved against abortion

abroad. Initially it sought to cut off all U.S. support for any population activities of governments supporting abortion with other funds. But in the end it seems to have recognised that such direct efforts to change the policies of other governments would only stiffen their insistence on making their own choices, and the new rules were restricted to other organisations, one of which was the United Nations Population Fund. The right-to-life's parallel efforts to reduce appropriations for all international population work were blocked in Congress, but their pressure did contribute to a flattening of the level of U.S. government support for population activities in developing countries.

Since no U.S. funds had gone to support abortion abroad before the right-to-life attack on the programme, that attack had no direct impact on the level or quality of abortion services abroad. It did, however, have an indirect impact. By limiting the level of American support for other kinds of birth control, it limited the overall supply of contraceptive services; it thus increased the number of pregnant

women eager to avoid childbirth and so enlarged the number resorting to abortion.

We cannot know how much world-wide family planning service was constrained, or how many legal or extralegal abortions could have been avoided if the needs of women eager to avoid childbirth had been met in other ways. But what is not in doubt is that women with access to decent contraceptive services are less often driven to seek the abortionist in the alley. And extralegal abortion is one of the most important causes of maternal suffering and death.

Obviously I am not suggesting that this result was intended, or even that it should be charged against right-to-life leaders as an immoral consequence that they should have taken into account. From their standpoint it could not be attractive to support what they see as the evil of contraceptive services merely in order to moderate the greater evil of abortion. But I think this result nonetheless deserves close attention.

In the long history of our attempts to understand cause and effect in population policy, there are many examples of error, and

many of them share one characteristic: They oversimplify the problem. There are still those who oversimplify the relation between population growth and economic development — there was an oversimplification of that kind in the Reagan administration's demarche of 1984, and there have been oversimplifications at the other extreme, too.

Many of us were slow to understand that contraceptive devices are unlikely to have much impact without appropriate contraceptive services, and we came more slowly than we should have to a recognition that a lively concern for the roles, responsibilities, and general health of women is essential to any good arrangement for family planning.

But what we all know today is that more careful statements on all these points can be persuasively argued: There can be great cost in unlimited explosions of the birthrate; there are both medical and cultural arguments for diversity of choice; and the establishment of a strong programme in any country requires political leadership.

What we also know is that a really good family planning programme — anchored in the serious

support of political leaders, conducted by women and men who do their work with knowledgeable care, and responsive to the real needs of the people who are served, is quite simply a human good whose real value is wholly apparent when one thinks what present and future life would be without it.

We have engaged ourselves, without illusion, in a war with human misery. The reality in any world without family planning skills would not be the disciplined monogamous moderation of those who can meet the strictest standards of their own creed. The governing reality is that the sexual urge of our species is vastly stronger than the rules of religion. This is not a false judgment, it is a much more powerful proposition: a statement of fact supported by the experience of every generation in every continent.

No one should deny the right of those with a particular conviction to pursue it unconstrained by contraceptive devices. But it is another matter to leave them unanswered when they conclude that either preachment or law can make everyone else like them — International Herald Tribune.



Yugoslav foreign policy—nonaligned and European

By Svetislav Maksovic

YUGOSLAVIA must actively join in the ongoing processes of Europe's integration. But this does not mean that it must renounce the philosophy of non-alignment which implies one world, one common home in which mankind will live in peace and cooperation. This is how Foreign Secretary Budimir Loncar set out the main lines of Yugoslav foreign policy on several occasions this year when meeting the press.

Stretching south-east from the Alps in Central Europe deep into the Balkan peninsula, on strategic territory that was for centuries a battleground fought over by contending empires, Yugoslavia could not have chosen to pursue any other policy. Geographically, Europe is Yugoslavia's home, and its historical and cultural ties with it are inseparable. This is why, in this time of major, far-reaching changes when Mitterrand and Gorbachev, the leaders of two countries which belong to blocs which until quite recently seemed irreconcilable, both talk about building a "common European home," Yugoslavs are more and more looking towards such a Europe.

Is there any contradiction in Yugoslavia's desire to remain faithful to the policy of nonalignment adopted by a movement made up exclusively of developing countries, and its desire to knit closer ties with the industrialised countries of Western Europe as these challenging times require? This is one of the most frequent questions put to Yugoslav officials.

Nonalignment, Yugoslavia's fundamental foreign policy orientation, has deep roots. Theorists claim that they go as far back as the immediate post-war period, after the end of the Nazi Germany. At that time, Yugoslavia started an active and intensive search for authentic new roads of political, social and economic development. This included the aspiration to full independence and self-determination and the rejection of any attempts to dictate policy from outside.

Yugoslavia broke with Stalin in 1948 and soon afterwards, in the 1950s, the world fell into the grip of the cold war. At the start of the 1960s, the then Yugoslav leader Josip Broz Tito, together with India's Jawaharlal Nehru, Egypt's Gamal Abdel Nasser and

a number of other Third World leaders, brought to life the high goal of these countries to independent development by founding the Non-Aligned Movement. Today, the movement has over 100 members and plays a major part in all international affairs. For Yugoslavia, which opted for a specific road of development, rejecting pressures from both East and West, this was a crucial step towards establishing ties with countries ready to cooperate on an equal footing, a step towards shaping a better, more just world.

Much has happened in the nearly 30 years since the first nonaligned summit conference was held in Belgrade, but Yugoslav policy has remained faithful to nonalignment. Perhaps this is why Yugoslavia, as a co-founder of the movement, feels a special historical responsibility for the movement's future. And another reason may be the realisation that nonalignment is not a passing sojourner in this world. For, as Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe, the movement's chairman in the preceding three years, so aptly put it at the 9th nonaligned summit in Belgrade in September, "the principles (of the policy of nonalignment) are not for bad times alone; they are for all times."

As a European and a non-aligned country, it is only natural that Yugoslavia should act as a link between the developing nations and the rich European countries. "Yugoslavia must promote an orientation which will ensure the developing countries' presence in world development and world stability. And, on its part, the South must be prepared politically to be a part of this world consensus. It is in this context that we see a major, above all political, role of Yugoslavia," Foreign Secretary Budimir Loncar told reporters recently.

Yugoslav President Jancov Dvorski, who currently chairs the Non-Aligned Movement, too sees no contradiction in Yugoslavia's policy and position. "I hold that there is no disagreement between our adherence to non-alignment and our increasing orientation towards Europe," said Dvorski in a recent interview to Tanjug. "...Yugoslavia, as a European country whose fundamental needs and interests are linked to this continent, cannot stand aside or be excluded from these processes," he added — Tanjug features.

Discontent with political development found across China

By Kathy Wilhelm
The Associated Press

LANZHOU, China — A poster that went up during the first months of classes this fall at Lanzhou University declared that the student-led pro-democracy movement was not over.

Across China in the southern province of Canton, a college student was caught stuffing leaflets in mailboxes and bicycle baskets, pleading a "struggle to the end."

Pamphlets written by extreme leftists, criticising senior leader Deng Xiaoping as a capitalist, and by reformists, calling him senile, have appeared in the Mail of Chinese, and foreigners in several cities.

Students in southwestern Sichuan province were stopped by soldiers from marching to Deng's home village and desecrating his ancestors' graves. Soldiers remained camped there to protect the graves.

Residents in the northwest city of Xian sometimes spit when they see a woman who turned in her younger brother, a student activist on the government's most-wanted list.

These incidents indicate political tensions that erupted into protest marches in April and led to the bloody crackdown in June have not spent themselves. Even as the Communist party celebrated 40 years in power in October, an eventual reckoning between it and China's 1.1 billion people seemed inevitable.

"People are waiting for Deng to die, just as they waited for the emperors to die," said a Western scholar, speaking on condition of anonymity. The 85-year-old leader, who has appeared several times in public lately, is believed to suffer from cancer.

"When Deng dies, we'll celebrate," said a college senior in Zhengzhou, who asked not to be identified for his own safety. A college student in Lanzhou, the capital of Gansu province, worries that people will begin to believe the government's claim that counterrevolutionaries were behind the democracy movement, and that they and hoodlums caused more damage with rocks and bottles than soldiers did with tanks and guns.

In Beijing, few people believe the government explanations, even after hearing them for five months. To most people in the capital, the students remain heroes who spoke out against the government.

Two weeks of travel through provincial capitals found the same cynicism and anger in conversations with dozens of students, teachers and urban workers.

Only in the villages do ordinary people say with apparent sincerity that the government was right to order the military crackdown on protesters in Beijing. But they aren't aware of many details or even the government's admission that hundreds died.

"They used tear gas," Zhou Zhenchuan, a factory manager in peaceful village, near Lanzhou, said when asked how the army ended the protests. Told that soldiers also fired guns, he said in disbelief, "I never heard that."

Although the government stopped announcing arrests of suspected dissidents in July, after

more than 2,000 were publicised, Chinese and Western sources in Lanzhou and three other provincial capitals — Zhengzhou, Xian and Chengdu — said a new wave of interrogations and arrests began in September, when colleges reopened. No reliable figures were available.

much larger.

Domestic radio in May reported marches in a dozen cities and towns in the southwestern province of Sichuan alone, including some places so small they could not be found in an atlas. A recent traveller to a dozen semi-rural county towns was told that

"Some professors who sympathised with the students or offered them advice have been banned from teaching and remain in limbo in their campus housing, not daring to meet with friends for fear of harming them by association."

"They're going through the libraries on campus and taking books off the shelves and locking them up," said a foreign teacher who insisted on not being identified, even by city.

Old files are being reopened, she said, and past writings and comments are being examined for signs of capitalist or Western sympathies.

Some professors who sympathised with the students or offered them advice have been banned from teaching and remain in limbo in their campus housing, not daring to meet with friends for fear of harming them by association.

The student in Lanzhou said that after the poster went up at his university, signed "the China democratic league — Lanzhou branch," officials brought in handwriting experts. Within days, seven students were arrested.

"We don't know if our dorms are bugged," he said. "One night, a group of students debated among themselves — one group argued for putting down the turmoil, another opposed it. The next day, a teacher said, 'you students should talk less about it.'"

"How did he know?" Lanzhou clings to the banks of the Yellow River 1,200 kilometres west of Beijing. For centuries, it was the westernmost outpost of Chinese civilisation; beyond was the thinly charted wilds of Mongolia and Xinjiang.

News from Beijing often arrives days late. By the time the impact of a government policy trickles down, a new policy often has taken its place, a government worker said.

Support from Lanzhou

But when Beijing students began a hunger strike in May to press their cause, more than 10,000 Lanzhou students and older intellectuals marched to show support.

When the military moved to crush the protests in Beijing on June 3-4, Lanzhou students flocked to the railway station and tore up the tracks to keep soldiers from going to the capital. They blocked city roads and bridges, too, shutting down the city for nearly a week in hopes that the chaos would topple premier Li Peng and others who ordered the crackdown.

Gov. Jia Zhijie of Gansu province mobilised thousands of police to remove the blockades and round up protesters.

The government says more than 80 cities were affected by protests, but the number seems

protests were held in each. At the height of the movement, hundreds of thousands of students travelled between Beijing and other cities, sharing information and funds. Although their illegal unions have been disbanded, ties of sympathy remain. "Students all over the country are in union," one student declared in Xian, the former imperial capital now a popular tourist stop.

Several months into the new school year, this union seems unlikely to translate into action anytime soon.

"The students are depressed. They don't cooperate — they don't biao'ai" — make the ritual declaration of their political loyalty — "or if they do it's just perfunctory," said a provincial government employee, confirming what teachers and students have said.

"People are trying to leave. Those who previously were willing to wait for their work units to send them abroad are trying now to pay their own way."

Work units are self-contained communities where Chinese employees live and work.

The government employee has no foreign language skills, no hope of leaving, and wavers between bitter envy of the students' arrogance and a shared hatred for the party.

No hope

"Wang dan — the others — their lives were easy," she said, referring to a Beijing student leader now under arrest. "That's why they dared speak — they had no political experience."

She has spent most of her more than 30 years under the inherited stigma of her parents' 1957 label as "rightists."

"Speaking out does no good," she said, anger in her voice. "You can't change anything. You can only make it harder for yourself later on."

She said Chinese intellectuals are weak.

"Yes, I count myself among them. There's something lacking in our character. Why have all modern Chinese leaders been peasants? Look at Mao Tse-tung, Deng Xiaoping."

The Lanzhou student expressed similar doubts about prospects for change.

"We talked about democracy, but no one really knew what it is," he said. "I only know what it is not. How does it work? We need to find out more about it."

When like thousands of students, he travelled to Beijing in May to join the sit-in at Tianan-

men square, he found the movement presided over by a few students who were inaccessible behind cordons of pickets — just like party leaders.

"Some people say that in 30 years, when this generation comes to power, we will overthrow the system," he said. "But others say we will only change the name of the party from Communist and nothing will really change, just like the Communists replaced the emperors but became new emperors."

The government employee said it may not matter if the intellectuals choose Socialism or capitalism, democracy or authoritarianism. Rising unemployment and the gap in living standards between cities and villages may trigger anger that will put China's future, once again, in the hands of peasants motivated not by democracy but by their pocketbooks.

In Chengdu, many of those who clashed with police in early June were peasants who came from the countryside seeking work. The two men executed there were peasants.

Some still look back with nostalgia on the events of the spring. "Students from the communications university went around collecting money to give the students in Beijing," a Xian factory worker recalled.

"They gave whatever money they had," the worker added. As in Beijing, most of the scars of Xian's protests have been scrubbed clean or painted over. An office worker stood in the rain in Xincheng square, where Xian students held a monthlong sit-in in the spring, and looked about as if searching for the vanished banners and tents.

"The students closed off the street, but I got in and took some photographs," the worker said. He keeps the negatives hidden, unprinted, waiting for a more tolerant time.

The student from Lanzhou also has hidden photographs and memories. "I am proud I went," he said. "I don't know what will happen in the future, but it was history and I saw it."

LETTERS

Photos, photos

To the Editor:

IT is both unfortunate and rather unprofessional the noticeable absence of interesting photos to accompany features in your paper. Your story on the Bani Hammad house (J.T. Nov. 20) which is an excellent example of restored heritage should have obviously been accompanied by a photo of the house.

The "Focus on People" column would have been more interesting had it been supplemented with a photo of the glass blowers in question.

In addition your file photos are outdated in many instances, and should periodically be updated. Passport type photos of persons should be avoided as they are usually mundane (Mr. Kham-mash's — J.T. Nov. 23).

Dramatic photos are an essential ingredient in the chemistry of any aspiring newspaper.

Zaid Goussous
Romero Restaurant

Rome mosque near completion

By Clare Pedrick

ROME — Some people said it could never happen. Others did their best to make sure it never did, but nearly 20 years after the late King Faisal of Saudi Arabia first proposed the idea, the Eternal City, the cradle of Christianity, is getting ready for the dedication of a mosque up on the pine-clad hills of Monte Antenne.

Work on the giant edifice, which has cost more than \$37 million to build, is now in its final stages and the mosque should be ready for an opening ceremony early in 1990, officials say. The prayer hall will provide a place of worship for Rome's growing Muslim community, currently estimated at some 20,000 people.

A separate structure on the site, due for completion in 1991, will house a new Islamic Centre, to replace the present cramped quarters in the city's Parioli district. The center will include a theatre, offices, a conference room, a smaller prayer hall for everyday use and an Islamic library whose shelves will be stocked with the largest collection of scholarly books in Western Europe.

Paolo Portoghesi, the man chiefly responsible for designing the complex, says that the mosque is probably the most important monument to see the light of day in postwar Italy. Even so, he adds, the building represents far more than architectural achievement. "For me it symbolises the solid relationship between the Islamic world and the rest of the world, particularly the world of Christianity," he said, surveying the vast, square prayer hall, which can hold 2,000 worshippers.

With his engineer partner Vittorio Gregotti, the 58-year-old Portoghesi, one of the leading names in Italian design, had the daunting task of creating a building that would be Islamic in mood and inspiration but aesthetically compatible with the architecturally rich city in which it is set.

While working on the project Portoghesi and his team had to battle against mountains of bureaucracy, religious bigotry, open hostility and even death threats from opponents of the mosque.

"The building of this mosque has had an extremely troubled history," said the architect. "I know there were a lot of people in the Islamic world who feared it would never be completed."

The story began back in 1970, when King Faisal, during an official visit to Italy, expressed his desire to have a mosque built in Rome and offered \$5.2 million toward its construction. Two years later, the Italian government succeeded in obtaining the permission of the Vatican, and the Rome City Council agreed to donate a more than 7 acres in one of the most beautiful sections of the Italian capital.

In 1974 the Islamic authorities held an international competition for its design, and one of two groups to be selected, said Portoghesi. "The other group was led by the Iraqi architect Sami Moussawi and in the end the judges asked us to work together on a joint project."

The request created problems because each architect was eager to impose his own design. Moussawi won some of the design battles, arguing that certain ideas of the Italian team were out of keeping with Islamic tradition. The final result, however, remains very close to the original plans submitted by Portoghesi, particularly those of the prayer hall.

There were more hurdles to be overcome. The mosque has the energetic support of Rome's mayor at the time, Giulio Carlo Argano — an art historian by profession — but there were many others in the city who made it clear that they didn't welcome the idea. Among them were the MSI, Italy's small but vocal extreme right-wing party, and a larger, more powerful faction described by Portoghesi as "Catholic conservatives."

In 1978, when construction was finally about to begin, a group of residents living near the site of the mosque managed to obtain a last-minute moratorium on the project. It was to be another six years before planning permission was again granted and the foundation stone could be laid.

"I think a lot of the opposition was the result of xenophobia," said Portoghesi. "A small but significant lobby was afraid the Islamic Centre would become a souk (bazaar), which is quite clearly absurd. Others claimed that the cupola would be bigger than that of St. Peter's (at the Vatican), which is also ridiculous — it's actually about one-fifth the size."



Architect Portoghesi surveys what will be one of his masterpieces

"In addition, there were claims it would become a center for terrorism. I myself received anonymous death threats and Mayor Argano had to go around with bodyguards. In my view, all of this shows that any threat of terrorism came not from the Muslims but from Christians who were making the threats."

Now that the long struggle is almost over, Portoghesi declares himself pleased with the result. "Especially, he says, with the blend of ancient materials and techniques used in conjunction with the

very latest in modern technology. The 17 cupolas, 1 large and 16 small ones, have covered with lead in the oldest traditions. The outside of the mosque is faced with half-size bricks made in Venice, which were first used in ancient Roman times. The sky-blue paint used to cover the ceiling was carefully hand-mixed the way artisans used to blend it to prevent problems of condensation. By contrast, the pillars inside the mosque have been built using a very new technique.

"They're made of concrete, but used in a very modern way," explained Portoghesi. "Not like in the 1960s, which was so ugly. This cement has tiny pieces of Carrara marble mixed up with it, and the surface has been smoothed down, which gives it a very translucent quality."

Another highly innovative feature is the lighting, probably the mosque's most striking feature and the one that has given the architect the greatest satisfaction, he says. Up in the dome, small oblong windows send shafts of light down onto the worshippers. Another equally narrow slit runs right around each wall, hidden by a flange of stone. The effect is dazzling. As sunlight enters the building it is deflected upward toward the dome. Below the point where it enters are strips of travertine engraved with inscriptions from the Koran.

"It's something that has never been seen in a mosque before. The idea is for it to seem as though the light is flowing from the words of the Prophet," said Portoghesi. "In fact, the idea I had in my mind while designing this building was the 'Sun of Light,' which I think is one of the most beautiful parts of the Koran."

Portoghesi, who is a professor of architecture at Rome University and president of Venice's famous Biennale contemporary art exhibition, has long been an admirer of Islamic culture. He first read the Koran nearly 20 years ago and has developed spe-

cial courses on Islamic architecture at the request of some of his Palestinian students. He designed two other mosques, one in Amman, Jordan, and the other in Khartoum, Sudan, but the Rome mosque presented special difficulties, he noted.

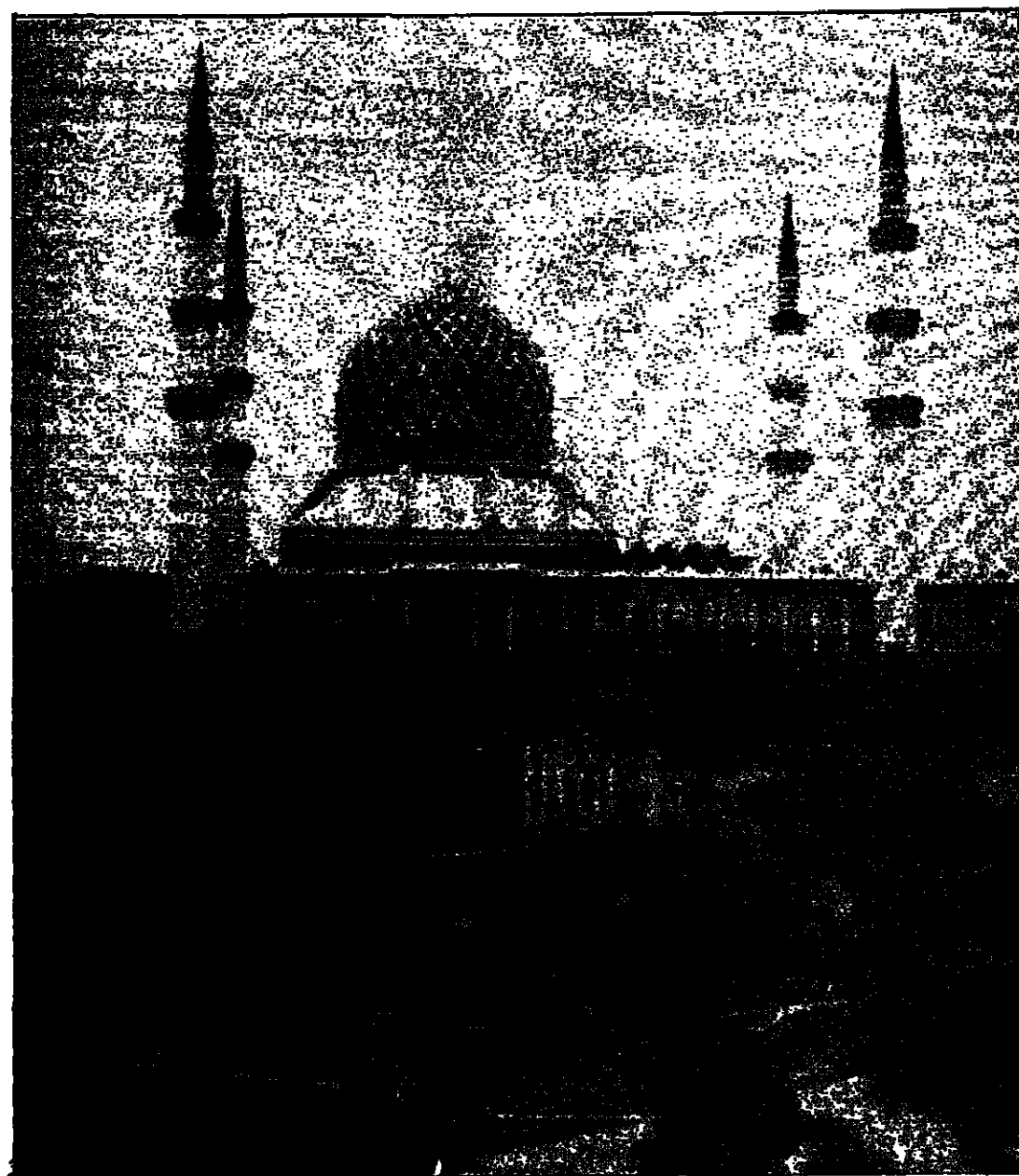
"It's one thing to build a mosque in an Islamic setting, and quite another to build one in a city such as Rome. From the beginning, this was by definition an ambiguous building, with two very different inspirations and two differing demands." Portoghesi turned to history for a solution, searching out examples of marriages between the eastern and western cultures. His own hero, the sculptor Bernini, used Arabesque arches in the Chiesa del Re Magi, near the Piazza di Spagna in Rome. In his mosque, Portoghesi has made dramatic use of a more modernist version of the arches.

The interior of the mosque's dome is fashioned in a series of concentric circles. "They represent the Islamic concept of cosmology, which was also taken up by Dante in the 'Divine Comedy,'" said Portoghesi. "It's an idea present in both civilisations."

There is little that is ornate or baroque in the Rome mosque. The effect is one of space, purity and simplicity. "The inspiration comes from the first mosque, the house of Mohammed in Medina," the architect explained. "It goes back to the original idea of the courtyard of the Prophet's house, where his followers used to worship and where there were palm trees to create shade. The pillars in this mosque are in a sense a transfiguration of those palm trees."

Modern technology has been used to ensure that the "Kibla" (prayer alcove) of the Rome mosque is precisely turned to face Mecca. Scientists have found the orientation correct to the nearest thousandth of a degree.

Delays in starting the Islamic project sent costs soaring. The original estimate, made in the



Rome is just one of the world's major cities. Lumpur mosque said to be the largest in the world.

1970s, was \$7.4 million, much of which would have been covered by King Faisal's gift. Today, building costs have risen to more than five times the original amount. They have been covered by donations from more than 20 Islamic nations. One problem that remains to be solved is that

of the minaret, which currently stands at just 25 metres, far short of the 39 metres requested by the architect. Planners at the Rome

City Council turned down an application for the full height, but Portoghesi has lodged an appeal. — World News Link.

Recent years have seen the completion of major mosques in several nations, including Malaysia which is said to have the largest mosque in the world. And a new mosque is scheduled to be completed in New York City next year.

By Stephanie Theobald

PARIS — In a country where 50-year-old businessmen have made leather jackets respectable, where the punks' pet rats have shampoos and sets, it was only a matter of time before the French inaugurated a Minister for Rock and Roll. Bruno Lion, 26, is in fact, Junior Minister for rock and traditional French music (chargé de mission pour le rock et les variétés), a post which he has occupied since May of this year. Only a French junior rock Minister could burn incense at the altar of power himself, and still look like he's walked straight out of the luncheonette. This man has never tampered with mind-altering drugs or had visions; Bruno looks like he's never stayed out all night in his life. He is a young man, notwithstanding, who has all the requisite components of the charm package: white teeth, easy laugh, good memory for names, piercing serious stare when called upon, vaguely insubordinate yet pristine dress sense. For that matter, only in France could you get government funding for an art which is not as yet considered an art in any other country in Europe. The French have long since erased the hierarchical distinction between entertainment and culture. In France, it is impossible to waste your time. Ev-

erything is good for you. You can't even get the twisted satisfaction of reading a comic, or squirting water at an old lady or smuggling home a Sex Pistols album and wallowing in the voluptuous knowledge that you are committing a heinous crime. In France, there is a comics museum, a school for clowns, and now, a Junior Minister for rock 'n' roll.

"So when does the Tequila Slammer Ministry get under way?"

"It's true, the French are fond of institutions," smiles Bruno, understating the case somewhat.

Before Monsieur Rock (as the French press has dubbed him), started his latest job, he was instrumental in setting up the French Rock Council (Centre d'information du rock) in 1986, and in publishing the definitive rock handbook (L'Officiel du rock). More or less simultaneously, Lion picked up a degree in law, and then, so boundless is his energy, one in political science. Jack Lang, minister for culture and communication, was so impressed that in 1988 he commissioned him with a "mission de réflexion et de proposition" on state policies for rock and varieties. (Varieties is the kind of music the rest of the world has always viewed as the French musical quinquessence: the accordion, the quivering voice, the Brylcreme, the string of onions,

the striped T-shirt...) His boundless energy was not all that was in his favor, however. His father, Robert Lion, used to be a National Budget Director (Inspecteur General des Finances) and was partly responsible for getting funds together for the huge Zenth musical complex in Paris and other musical venues like the Salle de Bagnole. Suffice it to say that in no time, Lion was ensconced in a swivel chair in the Palais Royal, with his own fax machine and filing cabinet — a greyish rock office incidentally, where there's not a single hi-fi or ghetto blaster to be seen.

Lang had been left with egg on his face in the early '80s after his ludicrous plan to suppress the amount of foreign pop music on the radio proved a dead duck and did absolutely nothing to revive the limp French music industry, which is what he'd intended. His interest in the importance of rock continued, however, and his appointment of Bruno Lion is proof of that.

Just as the French gaff politely at the mere thought of California wine, the Anglo-Saxon attitude toward French people playing around with electric guitars and fuzz boxes has always been to snigger and tell them to get back to the cuisine. Bruno is the first to admit that rock'n'roll is such as not where France's talents lie. He has his own personal theory that

Rock's first MP



Bruno Lion at the Ministry of Culture

it's all to do with the difference in consonant sounds between the English and French languages: "Yeah, yeah, yeah" sung in English is what any self-respecting chain saw murderer would say in real life. "Oui, oui, oui" in French is the sort of thing you would enunciate at a vicar's tea party.

"France has its own traditions which it is now starting to draw off, and which are starting to rejuvenate the French music scene. Traditions like the chanson — singers like Piaf, Boris Vian and Georges Brassens. French popular music is currently made up of a hodgepodge of

different sounds — the chanson ones, Rai, traditional folk. And "world music" — we've been talking about Suono Mondiale for the past 10 years over here, yet it's only just started to become recognised by the rest of the world."

Lion cites the Negresses Vertes (who sell more in England than they do in France), Mano Negra, and Mory Kané as signs that French New Pop is lanky dory. He does not mention the Bérurier Noir, who were recently quoted as being totally outraged at the idea of a Rock minister, of institutionalising rock. The Bérurier Noir are in fact so disgusted with

the recent turn of events in France that they have taken the logical step of disbanding completely.

Bruno programmes in his serious look when you suggest he is turning rock into an institution, putting sensible shoes and thermal underwear on his happily festering body. First he tells you, in the way that most people flash their credential cards, that he has only worn a tie once since he's been at the Ministry, and then he points to his thousand-dollar leather jacket, which was evidently a pin-striped suit in a former life, as if to make some kind of point. Next he says that what the rock Ministry is doing now is very similar to what the French government did in the '70s when it invested money in football fields for the sake of the state's coffers.

"At no point do we interfere with the creativity of the bands. We also never give money directly to groups, it's always through independent record companies, to help modernise their infrastructure [4 million francs or about \$650,000 last year]."

"Business knows how can be as important as musical talent when you're in this industry." Absolutely Bruno, though the idea of a Rock University seems about as much use to a potential manager as croquet lessons would be to Jack the Ripper. When you're swimming in a pool of

salivating sharks, you don't go around advertising the fact that you're really just a cute little bunny rabbit.

Nevertheless, Bruno Lion has transformed the French minzak Slough of Despond into a real French music industry. He has his eye set firmly on the European export market for 1993. Leaping on a decidedly more chic version of the bandwagon Schlitz beer and Pepsi Lite have been riding in the United States, the French government has discovered that there is money to be made in music. By investing a mere 40 million francs in French Rock the government will soon reap the rewards of an expected increase in record sales. At the moment the government already realizes around a billion francs per year in taxes from record sales alone. In short, Bruno's rock post is an extremely good investment for the French Culture Ministry.

Last July, when other French ministers were grinning and bearing Baccarat overkill, Bruno Lion was in New York organising the French set there for an international New Music Seminar. Among the groups playing under the French government's auspices and before a crowd of 4,000 were Les Satellites. Les Satellites have no respect for their elders or for the French government, and one of their most popular songs was "Yaourt, Saucisson, Revolution"; its subject matter revolved

around doing extremely rude things with sharp pointed objects to people who were involved in organising the massively hyped Bicentennial. Bruno uses this example to show what liberal policies he has regarding musical artistic freedom.

He is particularly pleased at the moment because on the 15th of this month the Gipsy Kings received a Gold Disk in the United States, following sales of 500,000 albums. He is also extremely chuffed by Mano Negra's recent signing with Virgin Records. He insists the groups aren't compromising themselves by succeeding commercially, and even though Lionel Rotgaze, the editor of French Rolling Stone, has suggested that the whole rock Ministry caper is a cynical attempt on Jack Lang's part to try and make himself interesting to the kids again, Bruno stresses that he's never forced anyone to accept a subsidy in his life.

Which leaves us to muse on the state of the art here in France: it's clear that the French government hopes to be eating jam for a tea at future rock soirees, and that rock itself is already being eaten by powers way above its head, though, granted, with a sedate knife and fork rather than with brazen quantities of fizzy beverages, as in the United States. — Stephanie Theobald is a free lance writer living in Paris.

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Italian-Jordanian panel to streamline future cooperation

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — Jordan and Italy have set up a joint committee to streamline economic cooperation and the first task that is awaiting the panel is allocating \$43 million in Italian soft loans to Jordan.

The agreement to form the committee was reached Oct. 30. Senior officials from the two sides met in Amman in early 1990 to formalise the establishment of the panel, which will be headed on the Italian side by the secretary of the Foreign Ministry in Rome, according to Dr. Massimo Lavezzo, first secretary at the Italian Embassy in Amman.

"Jordanian-Italian cooperation dates back to many years, but the first formal agreement was signed during the visit of our (then) president Sandro Pertini to Jordan in November 1984," Lavezzo told the Jordan Times in an interview.

The first protocol — "memorandum of understanding" — signed Nov. 26, 1984, provided for a \$10 million Italian grant to Jordan and \$50 million in soft loans. The grant was allocated to various projects in the next two years, but only \$7 million of the soft-loan was appropriated, Dr. Lavezzo said.

He explained that one of the conditions of the loan, which carries 1.75 per cent annual interest and repayable in 15 years with a five-year grace, was that it could be appropriated only for Italian goods or services.

The main project covered under the \$7 million loan was a potato storage plant set up in cooperation with the Agricultural Marketing and Processing Company.

Projects and programmes financed by the \$10 million grant included restoration work at Jerash, the first phase of an ornamental stone workshop at Maan, assistance to the Queen Alia Hearing and Speech Centre, fruit-plant seedling, technical aid to the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA), a mobile unit for the physically handicapped, upgrading Royal Scientific Society laboratories, a chemical laboratory at the Aqaba Thermal Power Station, training clinical instructors and a school for the handicapped in Salt.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Tuesday November 28, 1989					
Central Bank official rates					
	Buy	Sell			
U.S. dollar	641.0	647.0	French franc	104.7	105.7
Pound Sterling	999.9	1009.9	Japanese yen (for 100)	445.9	450.4
Deutsche mark	357.5	361.1	Dutch guilder	317.0	320.2
Swiss franc	398.9	402.9	Swedish crown	100.1	101.1
			Italian lira (for 100)	48.4	48.9
			Belgian franc (for 10)	170.2	171.9

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

	U.S. dollars	U.S. dollars
One Sterling	1.5628/38	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.1665/75	Canadian dollar
	1.7970/77	Deutsche mark
	2.0255/65	Dutch guilder
	1.6060/70	Swiss franc
	37.72/74	Belgian franc
	6.1280/330	French franc
	1324/1325	Italian lire
	143.74/84	Japanese yen
	6.4100/50	Swedish crown
	6.8500/50	Norwegian crown
	6.9750/800	Danish crown
One ounce of gold	408.60/409.10	U.S. dollars

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

Reuters

SYDNEY — The share market slipped, taking the all ordinaries briefly under the psychologically crucial 1600 level as selling accelerated. The index closed 13.8 down at 1600.4.

TOKYO — Late futures-related buying took the Nikkei to a fifth straight record close after prices languished in a tight range earlier. The index jumped another 103.77 to 36,985.30.

HONG KONG — Hong Kong stocks drifted down throughout the day, but bounced back from the lows. The Hang Seng Index slid 17.02 to 2,760.08.

BOMBAY — Share prices slumped on across-the-board selling as Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's chances of forming a new government appeared increasingly remote.

ZURICH — Swiss shares closed little changed in quiet trading. The Performance Index closed 0.4 firmer at 1,129.8.

PARIS — French shares ended easier after very thin trading though financial group Suez bucked the trend in high volume on news it is to take a 25 per cent stake in Danish insurer Baltica Holding. The CAC-40 ended at 1,860.24, down 3.57 points.

LONDON — Prices were steady near the day's highs in late trading, helped by sterling's better performance after falls Monday. By 1615 GMT the FTSE index was 19.9 up at 2,244.2.

NEW YORK — U.S. stocks reversed an early decline and pushed higher with oil shares fueling the advance. At 1700 GMT the Dow was up at 2,700.09.

ILO assesses world labour trends

GENEVA (R) — Economic reforms aimed at boosting productivity have prompted state organisations and thousands of enterprises in the Soviet Union and other East Bloc nations to try to shed excess staff, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) says.

At the same time, relaxation of state control on production has given a lift to self-employment and privately managed co-operatives, the Geneva-based United Nations agency said in its annual World Labour Report released Wednesday.

Another part of the report said that, with the exception of a handful of industrialised nations, public servants' pay packets were getting thinner by the year.

In the section assessing what perestroika, or restructuring, had meant to labour in Eastern Europe, the report said an estimated 140,000 workers lost their jobs in 1987 in plants run by the Soviet petroleum ministry.

It predicted new types of organisation requiring higher labour force mobility and changes in the system of remuneration in order to provide greater incentives.

"In the end, however, everything will depend on the nature and vigour of economic growth on the consistency with which reforms are carried out," the report said.

It added that the key problem facing Eastern European countries was how to make the transition from a state-controlled economy to one of autonomous enterprises without creating large-scale joblessness or galloping inflation.

In most countries of Africa, Asia, Latin America and even in parts of the industrialised West, public servants' incomes registered sharp declines in real terms, leading to low morale and reduced productivity.

It described the situation in industrialised market economy countries as slightly better. But it noted that between 1980 and 1986 salaries slid between one and 16 per cent in countries such as Denmark (-1.2 per cent), West Germany (-2.2), Sweden (-7.2), Australia (-13.2) and the Netherlands (-15.8).

In some industrialised states, salaries did increase between 2.8 per cent in France to 17.1 per cent in Finland.

British salaries rose by 11.5 per cent between 1980 and 1986, those of Italy by 13 per cent, the United States 10.5 per cent and Japan 14.5 per cent in the same period.

But increases were comparatively lower than those of the private sector, the ILO report said.

"Poor work and irregular attendance can become the norm for many who see little reason for working as hard as before when their real salaries have dropped by half or more," it said.

In the Russian Federal Republic 263,000 public administration officials were dismissed or reassigned by the end of 1988, it added.

And in mid-1989 a similar situation occurred in Czechoslovakia when the central administration staff was reduced by 30 per cent, the report said.

The rate of employment growth in both the state and cooperative sectors fell to 0.6 per cent a year for all centrally planned economy countries between 1980 and 1987, compared with 2.2 per cent during the 1970s.

The report said it was difficult to foresee what effect the present economic reforms would have on the employment situation in these countries.

"But the trend toward more self-employment in the form of individual labour activities and within co-operatives is likely to grow," it added.

It predicted new types of organisation requiring higher labour force mobility and changes in the system of remuneration in order to provide greater incentives.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

'Arab economies run in circles'

ABU DHABI (R) — Arab economies are entering the 1990 locked in a vicious circle of poor production capacity and increasing demand from growing populations, the Arab Banks Union (ABU) said in its latest annual survey. "To break this vicious cycle, our economies need efforts to increase the performance of our production," said the report from the Beirut-based organisation, which groups about 90 per cent of Arab banks. "We are supposed to provide new jobs for 85 million workers by the end of this century. We should not enter the new century counting our illiteracy rates and food gaps," it said. The report, which covers statistical data for 1988, said the value of the Arab World's gross domestic product (GDP), the measure of domestic economic activity, fell by six per cent in 1988 while world GDP grew. It said the decline was due to a drop in the price of oil to an average \$14 a barrel from \$17.4 in 1987. The report valued total Arab World GDP in 1988 at \$362.3 billion and estimated that per capita income as a share of GDP fell to \$1,715 in 1988 from around \$2,500 in the first years of the decade. As a result, local investment fell sharply at a time when capital from abroad, including aid and loans, also declined, the report said. It said total Arab foreign debt reached \$123 billion in 1988.

Iranian share trading increases

NICOSIA (R) — Shares worth 3.8 billion riyals (\$53 million at the official rate) were traded on the Tehran stock exchange in the eight months to Nov. 21, Iranian television has said. It said volume was 60 per cent higher than the same period last year and the exchange hoped that investor interest would increase in coming years. Iran has no tradition of investing in shares. Most people prefer to put their money into bank deposits, property or gold. The television said the exchange, established in 1967, set a record volume of 44 billion riyals (\$610 million) in the year to March 20, 1978. It said the shares of 105 companies or banks and four different bonds were then traded on the exchange. Deals virtually halted for five years after the 1979 revolution. The volume of shares traded last Iranian year to March 20 totalled 10 billion riyals (\$139 million), with most of the transactions just before the Iranian new year, the television said. The finance ministry said last year that any company with more than 100 shareholders could register at the exchange.

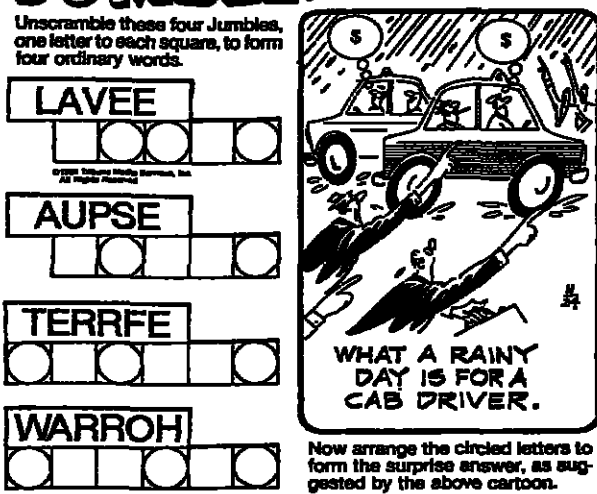
Japan proposes amending farm policy

GENEVA (R) — Japan has proposed ending export subsidies in a global plan to reform world farm trade, but said it would be hard to abolish all state support for farmers. A Japanese paper said countries should be allowed to curb food imports when necessary to maintain food security by keeping up domestic production of basic foodstuffs. National food security needs were among social concerns — such as preservation of land and environment, overall employment and maintenance of local communities — which gave agriculture a special character, Japan said. "In view of the variety of roles played by agriculture, it would be difficult to do away with agricultural support," it said.

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee



Baltic republics gain economic autonomy

MOSCOW (AP) — Legislators Monday approved major Kremlin concessions and granted the Baltic republics the right to issue their own currency and take a share of profits from centrally controlled factories.

After four months of work, the Supreme Soviet gave final approval to a plan launching Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia on the road to economic autonomy from Moscow beginning Jan. 1.

In other action, the legislators gave preliminary approval to the Soviet Union's first law explicitly repudiating years of press censorship.

Deputies from the tiny Baltic republic of Estonia smiled, stood and cheered after the legislature approved the economic independence measure on a vote of 296-67. Thirty-seven deputies abstained.

"It's a very big step forward," Lithuanian Communist Party chief Algirdas Brazauskas said in an interview after the vote. He had a wide smile and said he was in a "very good mood."

Estonian legislator Mihail Bronshteyn, an economist, called the vote a "big victory" for his republic.

President Mikhail Gorbachev, who presided over the debate, also had praise.

"We need such a law to move us forward on the road to economic reform," he told the more than 400 legislators gathered in the Kremlin.

His chief economic advisor, Deputy Premier Leonid Abalkin, said the Baltics would be taking "brave radical" steps and blasted opponents for a "presumption of guilt" that the republics would take advantage of the law to the detriment of the rest of the country. He said the government had made several major concessions in giving up some control of the Baltics' economies that have been under Moscow's jurisdiction since the Soviet takeover of the independent states in 1940.

The law says natural resources in the Baltics, long plundered by Moscow-controlled ministries, are now to be used "in the interests of the republics and the union." Baltic legislators said this meant the republics will have the prerogative on how resources are used. Control of the republics' financial system is to be in the

hands of independent republican banks, except for branches of the national Gosbank.

Abalkin said that provision meant the Baltics could develop their own currency for use within the republics, although they would still be required to use the rouble in dealing with the rest of the country.

Politicians and economists in all three republics are considering setting up their own currencies because the value of the rouble has plunged but indicated the time is not yet ripe to take such a radical step.

One deputy said the provision would allow the republics to create their own "separate fiefdoms."

The law also gives the republics a say over how the incomes of businesses on its territory is spent, and legislators said this meant the republics would get half of their profits.

Control of pipelines and highways running through the Baltics is to be decided on agreement of the central government and the republics, but Abalkin said such items would remain in Moscow's hands.

A final vote on the bill had been delayed from Friday after a sharp debate on whether the move amounted to a renewal or an effort to tear apart the Soviet system.

One deputy from the Soviet far east, Nikolai Danilyuk, said Friday he opposed the bill because "I would not like to become a participant in the disintegration of our great state."

Gorbachev Friday said the Baltics can move toward economic independence under the new law only within the framework of the federation but said all 15 republics will be allowed to have such status in 1991.

The law was given preliminary approval in July and sent to legislative committees for further work.

The press law, which now goes to committees for further work, declares that "the press and other mass media are free. Censorship of the mass media is not permitted."

Meanwhile, the European Community (EC) Commission said Monday it has signed a trade and economic cooperation accord with the Soviet Union that goes beyond similar deals it has signed in the past 14 months with Hungary, Poland and Czechoslovakia.

The accord provides for a gradual lifting of import quotas on Soviet industrial goods by 1995 and cites a dozen areas in which the two sides plan to establish economic cooperation, an EC source said.

These include science and technology, banking, transportation, agriculture, environmental protection, energy, raw materials and mining. The accord excludes trade in goods considered militarily sensitive, said the source, who asked not to be named.

He said the agreement calls for reciprocity in trade benefits. "That is the objective of this accord... to get an effective access to the Russian market for EC products," he noted.

Officials could not give an assessment of the economic impact of the Soviet agreement. "It is impossible to measure that," said the EC source, adding this depends on the degree to which economic relations can be increased and at what pace.

EC trade with Eastern Europe is small. It totalled \$56 billion in 1987, the latest year for which complete figures are available. EC-Soviet trade that year was only \$24.6 billion.

Algerian delegation tours industrial sites

AMMAN (Petra) — An Algerian economic delegation, currently on a visit to Jordan, Tuesday visited the Amman Industrial Estate in Sahab where they were received by its Director-General Fayer Subeimat who briefed them on the estate's role in supporting the industrial sector.

Subeimat also spoke about the incentives provided by the estate to encourage investments in Jordan. He voiced hope that cooperation ties will be further enhanced between Jordan and Algeria for the best interest and welfare of people in both countries.

The delegation members toured a number of industrial installations and inspected their production and performance.

Later Tuesday, the delegation

visited the Customs Department where they were briefed by its Director-General Adeli Qudah on the investment opportunities available in Jordan and the exemptions enjoyed in accordance with the Law on the Encouragement of Investments.

Qudah noted that the delegation's visit to Jordan is a positive step towards exchanging more economic and commercial visits. He pointed out that such visits are important because they contribute to promoting brotherly relations.

ACC panel thanks King for support

AMMAN (Petra) — A preparatory committee, emanating from the four-member Arab Cooperation Council's (ACC's) Higher Council of Chambers of Industries Tuesday cabled thanks and appreciation to His Majesty King Hussein for his continued support to the Arab integration march and his tireless efforts to achieve the objectives of the ACC.

The committee, charged with preparing a draft contract for setting up an ACC industrial holding company, met Tuesday under the chairmanship of Khalid Abu Hassam.

In its cable, the committee praised King Hussein's efforts to build an independent and integrated Arab economy.

Meanwhile, ACC housing and reconstruction ministers will meet in Amman on Dec. 27 to discuss reports of the four committees entrusted with unifying the activities of the housing sector.

According to Housing Corporation Director-General Yousef Hyayat, who returned from Sanaa recently, the first committee will study issues pertaining to the unification of organisational structures and names while the second committee will study the unification of specifications and building codes.

The third committee will study contracts and consultations and the fourth will study issues pertaining to the unification of legislations, exchange of expertise and visits and coordination in Arab and international conferences.

Hyayat noted that the four committees will hold four meetings in the capital of the four countries during the period from Dec. 4 to Dec. 19. He also said that the four committees will prepare their reports and plans of action to be submitted to the joint committee, which will meet before the ministerial committee meetings.

However, he noted that the committee intends to draw up a draft statute for a special ministerial council in cooperation with the ACC general secretariat.

EC offers \$13b to aid ACP

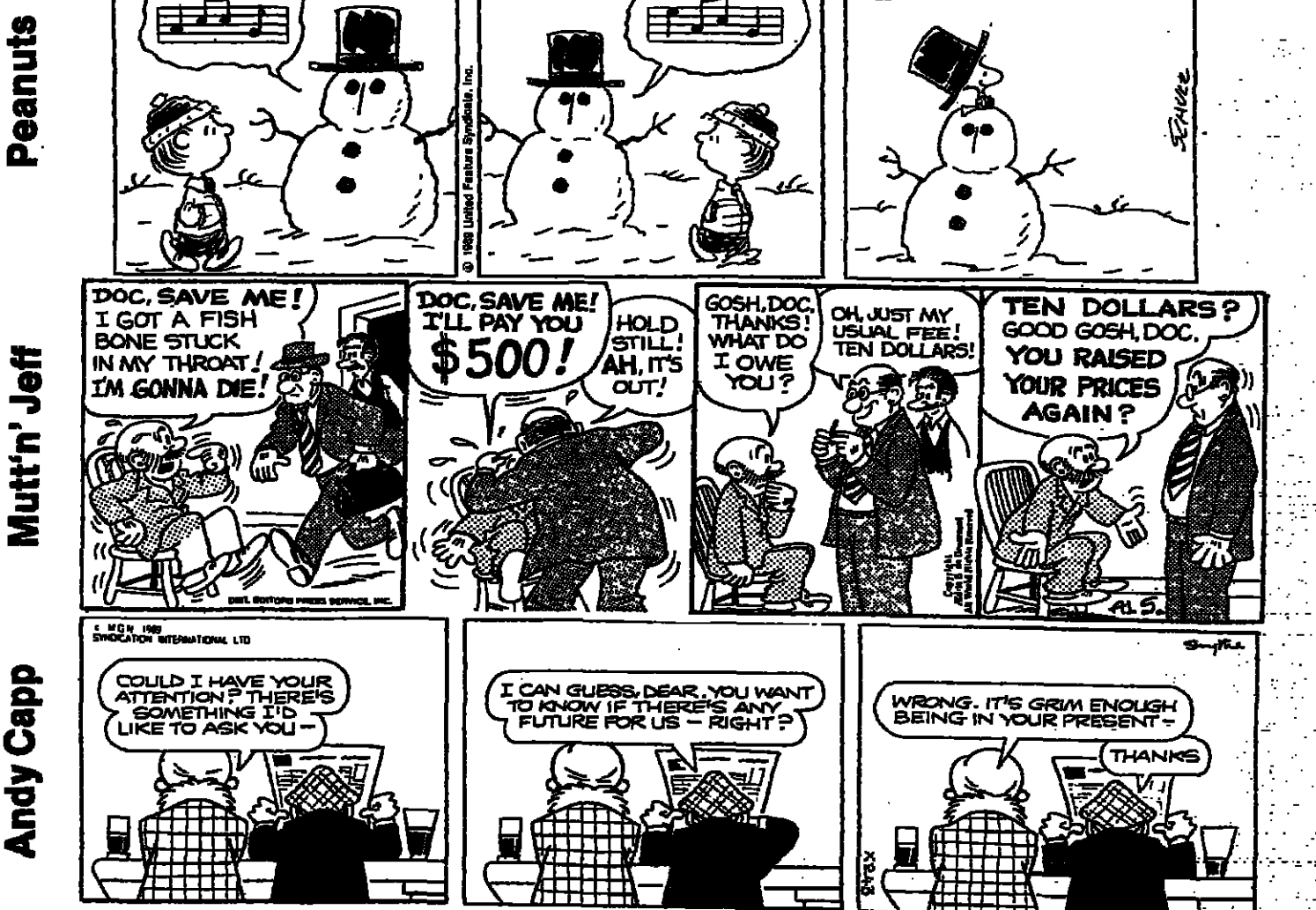
BRUSSELS (R) — European Community (EC) foreign ministers Monday agreed to offer the Third World \$13 billion in a major new aid package, EC officials said.

The decision marked the climax of more than a year's talks between the EC and the 66 African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) less-developed nations on the next Lome convention.

"It's the best possible figure given the circumstances," a French diplomat said.

Lome III, which expires next

February, gave trade concessions for ACP exports, loans on easy terms and financial aid worth 8.5 billion ECUs (\$9.4 billion) over five years. Named after the Togo capital, where the first convention was signed in 1975, it is the biggest pact of its kind.



Daniels takes WBA title on split decision

PARIS (R) — Robert Daniels beat fellow American Dwight Qawi on a split points decision to win the vacant WBA junior-heavyweight title Monday.

The 23-year-old Daniels won by the narrowest margin against his experienced opponent, 13 years older and with former world titles in two different weights to his name.

One of the three judges, all female, gave the fight 116-113 in Qawi's favour but the other two gave the younger man 115-113 and 115-114 respectively.

The two fighters were contesting a title vacated by Frenchman Taoufik Belbouli in August because of a knee injury. Daniels is to meet Belbouli in a title challenge early next year.

Qawi, using his experience and ringcraft to effect, dominated the early rounds, catching his opponent with several right hooks.

But the younger man concentrated on jabbing to the body and his heavier punch gradually wore down Qawi, who was visibly tiring from the seventh round.

Qawi staged a revival in the ninth when he was hurt by a blow from Daniels which he considered to be low.

His anger aroused, he pinned his opponent to the ropes and rained an avalanche of blows to the head. Daniels, in obvious trouble at this stage, was then warned by the referee for hitting below the belt.

But Daniels came back strong-

ly in the 10th as Qawi weakened once more. However, the older fighter held on gamely even though a cup appeared over his left eye in the 11th.

It was Daniels' 18th victory in 19 fights, his only loss coming through a disqualification for being under age.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

KASPAROV WINS BELGRADE CHESS TOURNAMENT: World Champion Gary Kasparov won the Belgrade international chess tournament Monday with a three-point margin, defeating Yugoslav grand master Predrag Nikolic. Kasparov won in a Nimzo Indian defence after four-and-a-half hours of play. The victory gave Kasparov 9.5 points and he will get a new 12 rating points giving him 2,805, taking him further ahead of former American world champion Robert Fisher who had 2,780. British grand master Nigel Short lost his last game of the tournament to Soviet grand master Artur Yusupov in a Ruy Lopez opening and tied ninth place in the final standings. Besel Kok, the Grand Masters' Association, said two venues had been set for next October's world championship, Lyon, France and an American city which he did not name.

SWEDISH INTERNATIONAL TO SIGN FOR SHEFFIELD: Swedish international full-back Roland Nilsson is to sign for struggling English first division side Sheffield Wednesday for £375,000 (\$585,000). Nilsson, 26, had a trial with the club earlier this month and Sheffield Wednesday manager Ron Atkinson announced on Tuesday he had agreed the fee with the player's club IFX Gothenburg. Manchester United had hoped to sign Nilsson on loan until the end of the season but both Gothenburg and the player preferred Wednesday's firm offer. Nilsson will have to wait for a work permit before he can make his debut for his new side.

11,000 TICKETS FOR INAUGURAL WORLD CUP GAME SELL IN HOURS: Soccer fans bought about 11,000 tickets for the inaugural game of next year's World Cup soccer championship on the first day of sale Monday, organisers said. Tickets for the June 8 match between defending champion Argentina and an as yet unnamed opponent went on sale at the countries of one of the largest Italian banks. The game, at Milan's Meazza stadium, is expected to produce a sold-out crowd of 80,000. Argentina's opponent will be named on Dec. 9, when the draw for the six World Cup groups is held in Rome.

TWO FIRST DIVISION BOSSES FIRED: Two English first division managers were fired Monday for failing to achieve instant success. Less than halfway into the season, Mel Machin, who took Manchester City up from division 2 at the end of last term, paid the price for being unable to continue winning by being dismissed. City is one place off the bottom of the standings with four victories from 15 games. A bigger surprise was the dismissal of Queens Park Rangers' Trevor Francis, a former star player with the London team who had been in the job for less than a season. A brief statement from the club said that Francis' appointment had ended "over differing opinions as to management style." Rangers said Francis may still be kept on as a player but said it would not discuss the matter further. Two weeks ago, Rangers upset Liverpool 3-2 in a league game, a victory that appeared to make Francis' position as manager secure.

EUROPEAN SOCCER

Madrid awaits Real-Atletico rematch

By Reuters

MADRID is bracing itself for a potentially explosive evening Thursday when city soccer rivals Real and Atletico meet in their controversial Spanish cup second leg tie at the Bernabeu stadium.

Extra security has been ordered after the goalless first leg ended in uproar with Atletico President Jesus Gil Y Gil accusing the referee of being a Real Madrid fan.

Gil Y Gil and coach Javier Clemente are under investigation by the Spanish Football Federation who could charge them with bringing the game into disrepute.

Gil held a referendum on whether the team should boycott the second leg but Atletico members and supporters voted for the game to go ahead.

The authorities regard the game as high risk but Real's Miguel Chendo said he did not expect violence. "This is not a war," he said.

Meanwhile, Real midfielder Rafael Martin Vasquez, hero of the 7-2 weekend trouncing of Zaragoza, has become Spanish football's latest hot property.

Real President Ramon Mendoza, who had delayed negotiations on renewing the player's contract at the end of the season, hastened after the game to say the pair would talk shortly.

Martin Vasquez said he was in no hurry to sign and might decide to wait until after the World Cup to sort out possible offers from

abroad.

The tug-of-war for the signature of Yugoslavia's top player Dragan Stojkovic of Red Star Belgrade is hotting up with free-spending Marseille ready to clinch a deal early next month.

The French sports newspaper l'Equipe said Marseille boss Bernard Tapie, who has already lashed out almost 150 million francs (\$25 million) on new players this season, is likely to make a second visit to Belgrade on December 8 to persuade the 24-year-old forward to sign on the dotted line.

Italian clubs Juventus, Sampdoria and AC Milan are all reported to be showing interest in the player too.

Juventus are also in the hunt for their former player Michel Platini, who they want as team trainer, according to reports in the French media.

Platini, whose contract as national team boss expires at the end of the year, has promised to announce a decision on his future soon but has hinted that he intends to stay with France until the 1992 European championship finals.

AC Milan's captain and Italian international defender Franco Baresi is favourite to win the prestigious European footballer of the year award, according to Italian newspapers.

If he, or last year's winner Marco van Basten, the second favourite, wins the award, Milan

will win the award for a record third time.

Last year they made a clean sweep with Milan's other two Dutchmen, Ruud Gullit and Frank Rijkaard, second and third.

A delegation from PSV Eindhoven including team coach Guus Hiddink and striker Romario went to the Brazilian embassy in the Hague on Sunday to discuss problems over the release of the Brazilian player for World Cup preparations.

The Brazilian Football Association want their squad together from April 23 but PSV are reluctant to lose Romario before the end of the Dutch season and the European Cup final.

Further talks with the Brazilian soccer authorities will be held

when Brazil play the Netherlands in a friendly on December 20.

PSV meanwhile denied press reports that Danish international Soren Lerby is to retire at the end of the season. Manager Kees Ploegsma said he would be talking to Lerby shortly, with a decision on the 31-year-old midfielder's future expected in the next 14 days.

Ajax Amsterdam are hoping to attract Internazionale Milan to join Real Madrid and Steaua Bucharest in the four-team tournament they are planning for early next year.

Ajax expected no objections from the European Football Union (UEFA) despite their one-year ban from official European competition after hooliganism at a UEFA cup tie in September.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 1989

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Until mid-afternoon you are too apt to get involved in an argument over a slight of a personal nature or where your pride is concerned.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Join with your family in adding to home restoration. A romantic time for you and your mate if you are alone.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Don't let a friend change your mind when it comes to business. Take your mate on a journey to see excitement.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) A financially sound business project will bring you a great return. Discuss any problems now with your family.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Go out on the town with your mate as often as possible. Information from afar will help in business.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Try to get a member of your family to go on a trip with you. You would be wise to analyse your business projects.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) A business associate will help in making more money. Make those necessary changes to your home at this time.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Accept a new idea extended by an associate to make more money.

Shrug off no duty given to you at your home.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Don't let friends take advantage of you at this time. A day of much excitement at your residence.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Let your attachment know how much you appreciate them around. Joining a social group would be good for you.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Much activity at home will be a good release now. You will have some good ideas to increase your money.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Follow the business advice of a very successful person. You will enjoy the company of friends at social events.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Your own ideas are now best for you in any business project. Speak your romantic devotion to your attachment.

Today's child: If your child were born today he or she will be a high-minded soul and should have the finest spiritual training possible and grow up in an atmosphere conducive to an academic career. This individual will possess deep knowledge that many sources will want to tap into their unusual awareness.

"The stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AKJ ♠AKQ4 ♠93 ♠KQ2
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass
What action do you take?

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠J7632 ♠AKJ92 ♠K7 ♠6
Partner opens the bidding with one club. What do you respond?

Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠AQ72 ♠93 ♠AK3 ♠Q982
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?

Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠AQJ72 ♠93 ♠AK3 ♠Q982
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?

Q.5—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AQJ72 ♠K6 ♠AK108 ♠AJ3
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 3 NT Pass
What action do you take?

Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠Q432 ♠6 ♠AQ1053 ♠J62
Partner opens the bidding with one heart. What do you respond?
Look for answers on Monday.

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Cinema Tel: 634144
PHILADELPHIA
A BOOK OF HEROES
Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Cinema Tel: 675571
NUJUM
Nadia Al Jundi In TERRORISM (Arabic)
Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema Tel: 674111
PLAZA
BATMAN
Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

Indian opposition ready to form next government

NEW DELHI (Agencies) — The National Front said Tuesday it was ready to exercise its "sacred duty" to form the next government of the world's largest democracy.

After winning pledges of support from the left and the right, the second-largest vote-getter said its parliament members would meet Wednesday and select a prime minister.

The nation's political scene was plunged into uncertainty when elections gave Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and his Congress Party the most seats in parliament, but not enough to form a government.

The voting started last Wednesday and ended Sunday. About 85 per cent of results have been announced, and counting continues.

"The mandate in this election is unmistakably a mandate for a change of government," the National Front said in a statement read by its chief spokesman, Dinesh Goswami, as the president of the five-party alliance met.

"The people of India want a non-Congress government to replace the corrupt and inefficient Congress government. It is therefore the sacred duty of the National Front to respect this mandate and to express its readiness to form a government," the statement said.

The National Front's opted for an ideologically diverse alliance, with partners ranging from Communists to Hindu nationalists.

But Gandhi apparently was gambling that the coalition will not hold together against its internal contradictions, analysts said.

Gandhi is now in the role of caretaker prime minister, following the dissolution of the old parliament Monday night. The dissolution was the first formal step toward the seating of the new parliament, which cannot take place until the election commission certifies results.

National Front leader Vishwanath Pratap Singh, a former Gandhi ally, met Tuesday with leaders of the Communist Party-Maxist, who said they would support the National Front as long as it does not make a formal coalition with the right-wing Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party.

Smaller Communist and leftist

with any alliance or support."

India has never had a coalition government — or a minority government — since it was freed from British rule in 1947.

The Congress Party, whose name was virtually synonymous with independence, has governed India for all but 29 months since then, usually with hefty majorities.

In the current election, the Congress Party lost heavily to the National Front in northern India, traditionally a Congress stronghold.

But it made major inroads in southern India, topping some anti-Congress regional leaders.

In addition, some of Gandhi's chief antagonists within the Congress Party lost in this month's elections. While this may embitter them because of the party's failure, it also tends to neutralize them in any challenge of Gandhi within the party.

Two Sikh militants accused of conspiring to kill Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi won parliamentary seats Tuesday without stepping out of their jail cells.

Simranjit Singh Mann and Atinder Pal Singh, both being held without trial under anti-terrorist laws, won easily as the most hardline of the Sikh political parties made big gains in violence-racked Punjab state.

Bimal Kaur Khalsa, widow of Sikh bodyguard Beant Singh who gunned down Gandhi in the garden of her Delhi home in 1984, also won by a huge margin for the Akali Dal (Mann) group.

Her husband was shot by other bodyguards shortly after the killing, while a second assassin and a co-conspirator were hanged last January.

Beant Singh's father Sacha Singh took one of the eight seats out of 13 won by the Mann group as it emerged the strongest faction of the badly splintered Akali Movement in Punjab.

Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress Party took just two seats, losing four of its sitting members. A Mann candidate also defeated Devi Lal, one of main leaders of the opposition National Front alliance.

Moderate Sikh leader Kanwaljit Singh acknowledged his Akali faction had miscalculated the mood of ordinary Sikh voters who showed wide support for the militants.

"The alliance, if any, will be ill-matched and bound to result in a divorce sooner or later," Muralidhar Bhandare, a Congress legislator in parliament's Upper House, wrote in the party newspaper, National Herald. "It is in the interest of the Congress not to opt for forming a government

Salvadorean witness recalls last words of Jesuit priest

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador (AP) — The last words anyone heard the Rev. Ignacio Martin-Baro say were: "What an injustice. What carnage."

A few minutes later he and five Jesuit colleagues were gunned down. The killers seemed determined to leave no witnesses: the cook and her teen-age daughter were also slain.

But someone survived the Nov. 16 massacre at Jose Simeon Canas Central American University, a cleaning lady named Lucia Barrera de Cerna.

In sworn testimony made available by an investigating judge to the Associated Press and two other news organizations Monday, Mrs. Barrera, 44, said the killers were military uniforms.

Until Monday, only sketchy second-hand accounts were available of her testimony about the killings that stunned El Salvador and caused an international outcry.

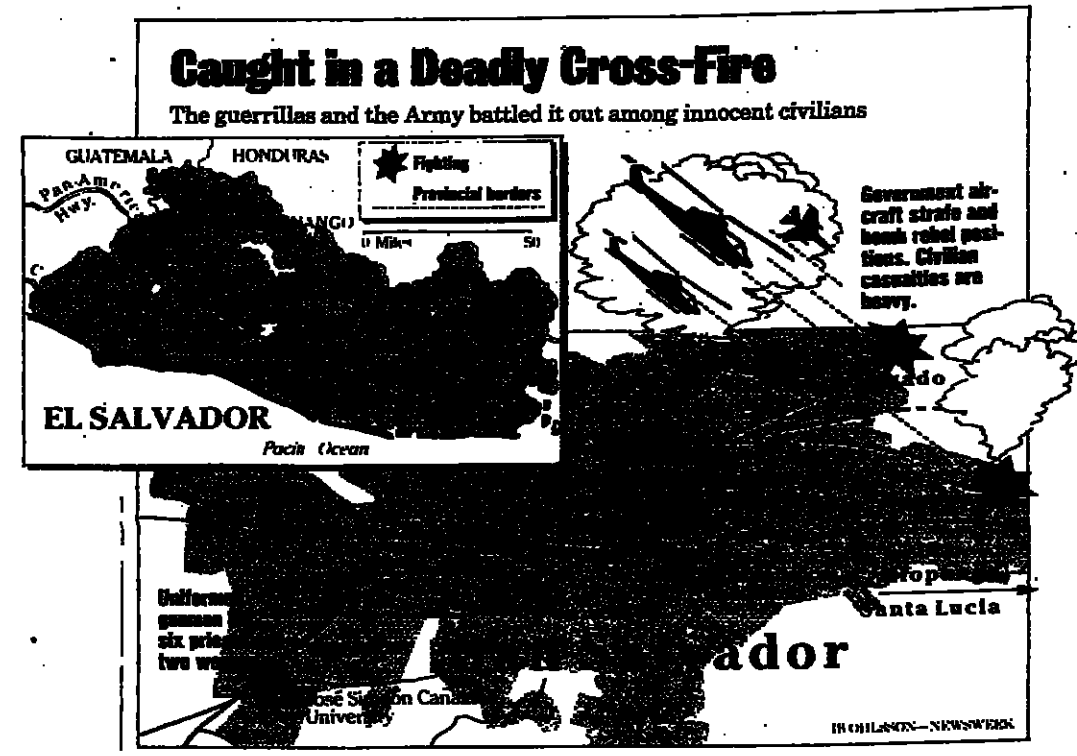
"I don't discount any possibility. It's probably members of the military," said Ricardo Zamora, the investigating judge who took her statement on Nov. 22 at the Spanish embassy, where the woman hid until fleeing to Miami last week under the protection of U.S. officials.

Mrs. Barrera said she was sleeping in a nearby building when she was awakened by gunfire at about 1 a.m. and ran to a window. In "moonlight that was like daytime," she reported seeing five uniformed men close in, shooting, on the residence shared by the Jesuits.

Two of the gunmen wore camouflage, she said, like the uniforms "I have seen on the soldiers in the street," and the others were clad in dark uniforms.

She heard doors being flung open and more shots, then "voices, without being able to distinguish who spoke at first. Only the voice of Padre Nachito (Martin-Baro) was I finally able to hear. He was saying: 'What an injustice. What carnage.'"

There was a hail of gunfire and "Padre Nachito spoke no more, nor could I hear a single voice," she said.



Fresh gunfire awakens San Salvador

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador (AP) — Much of San Salvador was awakened early Tuesday by gunfire and mortars exploding in the city's northern sector in renewed combat between government forces and leftist rebels.

Flares were dropped by circling helicopters over the northern neighborhoods of Mejicanos and Ciudad Delgado, and more than two dozen mortar rounds shattered the pre-dawn silence after 3 a.m. (0800 GMT).

Assault-rifle and occasional machine-gun fire was heard, but those exchanges were not heavy or sustained.

Guerrillas of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, or FMLN, on Nov. 11 launched 12 days of often-fierce combat to San Salvador and several provincial cities. The rebels have said that fighting was a first phase of a broader operation.

The government of President Alfredo Cristiani contends it defeated the insurgent push. But Cristiani also said last week, "they are doing some things that look more like regrouping than retreating."

On Sunday, Cristiani broke relations with Nicaragua to protest the alleged shipment of arms from Nicaragua to El Salvador's rebels.

He called Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega "a puppet of international Communist aggression." Ortega said he was glad not to have relations with "a

genocidal government that kills priests."

That was a reference to the Salvadorean Air Force's strafing and rocketing of populated neighborhoods of the capital in response to this month's guerrilla offensive and to the slaying of six Jesuit educators in Nov. 16.

El Salvador Monday requested an urgent Security Council meeting on Wednesday to deal with what it called violations by Nicaragua of the Central American peace accords.

A letter from El Salvador's U.N. representative, Ricardo Castaneda, said unless a stop was put to the violations peace in Central America would be threatened, and a conflict with incalculable effects could be unleashed.

A Security Council source said members would consult privately on Tuesday to consider the request for a meeting.

The United States said Monday it lodged a strong protest with the Soviet embassy over Nicaragua's alleged attempt to ship Soviet-bloc weaponry to Salvadorean rebels.

Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said the Central American issue, as a result of the abortive weapons delivery attempt, will become a prime area of discussion when President George Bush meets with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev on Dec. 2-3 in the Mediterranean off Malta.

The protest note deplors the

"dangerous escalation of conflict, contrary to Soviet assurances," Ms. Tutwiler said.

Meanwhile the mother of Jennifer Jean Casolo, a 28-year-old American arrested in El Salvador, and a U.S. church group she works for said Monday they believe she is innocent of possessing arms and explosives.

The guerrillas denied on rebel radio they had any links with Casolo, who was arrested after police found an arms cache under her house in San Salvador.

Christian Education seminars, a Texas-based non-denominational organization that provides religious and congressional groups with information on El Salvador, and the Americas Watch human rights groups urged Washington to assure that Casolo gets a free and fair trial.

They said statements by U.S. officials conveyed the impression that the charges are warranted.

Casolo was arrested Sunday by police who said a captured guerrilla tipped them off on the location of the cache.

The Salvadorean police would not say if Casolo had been formally charged, but said she could be held for up to 15 days without charge under a state of siege laws imposed after rebels launched an offensive on Nov. 11.

"She's being set up," Audrey Casolo, the woman's mother, said in a telephone interview with Reuters from her home in Thomaston, Connecticut. "She had no knowledge of this."

COLUMN

Picasso sold at bargain price

LONDON (R) — A Japanese businessman snapped up Picasso's painting "La Maternite" at a bargain price of \$7.15 million (\$11.2 million) at a London auction. Auctioneer Christie's had expected the work to fetch at least \$10 million (\$15.6 million). The Picasso was overtaken by Cezanne's still life "Pommes et Serviette," which went for \$11 million (\$17.2 million), nearly double its estimate, to an anonymous buyer. Yashimichi Morishita, consultant chairman of Aska International in Tokyo, said he believed he got the Picasso at a bargain. The price includes a seller's premium. "He was only really interested in the Picasso. He has 20 other of his works and he didn't really give a thought for the price," an interpreter said on his behalf. Yet Morishita could not resist picking up Monet's winter scene "Eglise de Jouy-en-Josas" for \$3.85 million (\$6 million) and Renoir's "La Famille" for \$2.42 million (\$3.7 million).

Wines reach record prices

MONACO (R) — A 1946 Magnum of Chateau Mouton-Rothschild, one of France's most celebrated red Bordeaux Grand Crus, fetched a world record price of 16,000 francs (\$2,600) at a Monaco wine auction, organizers said. The auction, held on Sunday night in a Monaco gallery, sold another 43 bottles from the same vineyard, dating from 1945 to 1986, for a total of 121,000 francs (\$20,000). Buyers were mostly wine merchants from the United States, Britain and other European countries, auctioneer Maurice Renaud said. Recent vintages also sold well. A 1961 Magnum of Chateau Petrus went for 20,000 francs (\$3,200) and a 1979 Romanee-Conti from the Burgundy region fetched 14,500 francs (\$2,400), also a world record price for that wine.

Monroe's bed is up for sale

NEW YORK (R) — If the red shoes that Judy Garland wore in the Wizard of Oz can sell for \$160,000 then how much is Marilyn Monroe's marital bed — the one she shared with baseball great Joe Dimaggio — worth? This is the question that a Ho-Ho-Kus, New Jersey, antiques dealer named June Regal is posing these days as she tries to sell the four-poster bed at an auction on Dec. 16. Her partial answer is that she wants a minimum of \$2,500 for the English oak bed from the home of Monroe and Dimaggio lived in during their March to October 1954 marriage. The bed and Beverly Hills house were rented to the couple by Hollywood decorator Barbara Barondes MacLean, who is selling off part of her possessions to fund a foundation for aspiring actors. Regal says that if the bed did not have the Monroe-Dimaggio connection it might only be worth between \$8,000 and \$10,000. But she adds, "People have paid \$1,200 for a bra Marilyn once owned and \$2,400 for a cotton dress she wore in the movie Bus Stop. A pair of red shoes that Judy Garland wore in the Wizard of Oz fetched \$160,000 at auction last year." So the bed should be worth a lot even though the marriage didn't last.

American buys Lenin death mask

LONDON (AP) — The first death mask of Vladimir Ilyich Lenin sold at auction Monday for \$5,600 (\$10,200), Phillips Auction House said. An unidentified American bought the mask of the founder of the Soviet Union. The mask was not identified. The mask apparently was cast by sculptor Sergei Merkurov on Jan. 21, 1924, the night Lenin died at age 53 after suffering two strokes. It is known to have been given to a person in the West who was regarded as a friend and supporter of the revolution and is being sold by descendants. Lenin's remains are preserved and displayed in his tomb in Moscow's Red Square. The mask was part of a sale of 20th century Russian art recently allowed out of the Soviet Union. A porcelain bust of Lenin's successor Joseph Stalin, made in Leningrad in 1947, did not sell. The highest price paid at Monday's auction was \$190,000 (\$294,500) for a Limbov Sergeevna Popova oil painting, "Composition With Guitar."

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Pretoria vows action on death squads

JOHANNESBURG (R) — President F.W. de Klerk said Tuesday he was ready to take strong action if a report he had ordered concluded that police death squads were responsible for assassinating scores of anti-apartheid figures. De Klerk called for the report from Law and Order Minister Adriaan Vlok last week following allegations by white former police Captain Dirk Coetzee that hit squads systematically murdered government opponents. De Klerk told a police parade in Pretoria he would receive the report "within days." It would enable the government to decide on what further steps to take. "In as far as may be necessary, strong action will be taken," he said.

Ted Kennedy files to West Berlin

WEST BERLIN (R) — Senator Edward Kennedy flew to West Berlin Tuesday and declared as his murdered brother President John F. Kennedy did a quarter of a century ago: "Ich bin ein Berliner." On Tuesday few Berliners shopping at an open-air market in the square outside the hall — renamed John F. Kennedy Platz after the president's assassination — paid much attention when his youngest brother arrived to pay a fresh tribute to Berlin. Speaking 19 days after East Germany opened the wall, Kennedy told civic leaders inside the Schoenberg Town Hall: "I come here to celebrate the end of the wall." He said: "This month belongs to those hailed by President Kennedy for standing 'on the front lines of freedom' — those who escaped the wall, and those shot down trying those who have inhabited this island of freedom and made it live and prosper; those on the other side who never lost hope despite the odds — in short, all the people of Berlin, West and East ... You have nobly carried the burden and the glory of these long years ... the proper toast is 'ich bin ein Berliner' (I am a Berliner)."

De Klerk to visit Ivory Coast

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast (AP) — South African President F.W. de Klerk will visit Ivory Coast for talks with President Felix Houphouet-Boigny on Dec. 1-2, the Ministry of Communications announced Tuesday. A ministry communiqué said De Klerk was scheduled to arrive in Yamoussoukro, Houphouet-Boigny's hometown, at 11:00 (1100 GMT) Friday morning. It will be the third visit of a South African head of state to Ivory Coast.

Shuttle Discovery lands

EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE, California (AP) — Space shuttle Discovery streaked out of orbit and landed safely Monday at the end of a secret military mission extended an extra day by high winds at this desert air base. Air Force Col. Frederick Gregory, commander of the five-astronaut crew, guided the winged spaceplane to a touchdown on a concrete runway at 4:30 p.m. California time (0030 GMT). The landing capped a five-day flight that covered nearly 2 million miles (3.2 million kilometers) and reportedly put in orbit a satellite to monitor military communications over a wide area of the globe.

Satellite heading back to Earth

WASHINGTON (AP) — Solar Max, the satellite that got a heart transplant in space and lived for another five years studying the sun, is expected to return to Earth this weekend — maybe in pieces. "We expect it to come down on Dec. 2, plus or minus 24 hours," Capt. Thomas Niemann of the U.S. Space Command in Colorado said. The \$77-million space probe has been getting scientific information for almost 10 years, covering almost one complete solar cycle. But its fuel ran out and it is no longer possible to keep it out of the clutch of Earth's atmosphere.

Ruling unlikely to end French debate on scarves

PARIS (AP) — After months of bitter debate over the place of religion in school, France's top administrative body has ruled that Muslim girls could wear headscarves in class without infringing the country's secular educational tradition.

But the Council of State, asked for a ruling by France's political establishment, said that in certain cases individual headteachers had the right to ban students who insisted on wearing headscarves in class.

The ultra-right National Front, meanwhile, looked set to return to parliament after surprising gains in weekend by-elections, apparently boosted by anti-immigrant fears whipped up by the affair.

The Council of State announced its decision in a special statement.

"The wearing by students of signs which denote their membership of a religion is not in itself incompatible with the principles of secularism," it said.

Individual headteachers should decide whether wearing the scarf was "an act of pressure, provocation, preaching or propaganda," in which case it was legitimate to ban the student from classes, the statement added.

Education Minister Lionel Jospin said he would send a letter to

heads of schools before Christmas, laying down guidelines on the affair. He did not give details.

The opposition immediately condemned the ruling as inadequate.

"Unfortunately I think this solves nothing," Alain Juppe, secretary general of the conservative opposition RPR party, told French television, calling for a debate on the issue in the National Assembly.

"Everything is back to starting point," National Front leader Jean-Marie Le Pen told television, adding immigration was the real problem behind the issue.

His party reacted gleefully to the results of the first round of voting in Marseille and Dreux, while political analysts predicted the return of at least one National Front member to the 577-seat National Assembly.

The ultra-right party lost all its 30 or so seats in the French parliament in elections in June last year.

But in the small town of Dreux, some 100 kilometres from Paris and which has a heavy immigrant population, Marie-France Stirbois won 42 per cent of the vote.

In the southern port of Marseille, with a long tradition of anti-immigrant feeling, Marie-Claude Roussel won 33 per cent of the vote.

Honecker — an 'old, broken' man who gets few visitors

EAST BERLIN (AP) — For ousted East German leader Erich Honecker, solace in disgrace and virtual exile comes from the visits of his grandson.

"What's he got to live for? Honecker is so sick that he cannot show himself in public," said his bodyguard, Gen. Guenter Wolf.

"He is a broken man. For him the world has fallen apart," Wolf told Western reporters who were allowed to visit the secluded Wandlitz residential compound outside East Berlin Monday.

The ailing, 77-year-old Honecker lost power on Oct. 18 in the midst of an exodus of East Germans heading West and large anti-government demonstrations. He was replaced by Egon Krenz.

Honecker had been East Germany's leader for 18 years.

Wolf, speaking to reporters outside Honecker's house in the wooded compound, said Honecker

was an "old, ailing" man. Wandlitz, once shrouded in secrecy, contains 23 houses once the pride of the country's top Communists.

Reporters caught a glimpse of Honecker on the upper floor of the house, apparently talking to a visitor and looking through some papers at a table lit by a lamp. No contact was possible.

A young woman with a child in her arms could be seen in the background. When she saw reporters outside, she pulled the shades down.

"Honecker's daughter from Berlin takes care of him. And his young grandson is everything to him," Wolf said. He said Honecker had few visitors except his family but offered no further details about them.

The two-storey brown house has no nameplate, only the number 11 on the short sandstone wall around the building. A dozen

young pine trees are in the garden.

Wolf assured reporters that the house contained "no Italian marble, no silk wallpaper, and no sauna." It looked modest by Western standards, but more than any ordinary East German could hope for in a lifetime.

An East-German made Wartburg automobile was parked outside the house. Wolf said it belonged to Honecker's wife, Margot, who lost her post as education minister shortly after her husband's ouster.

The Communist Party elite for years has lived in the walled-in, heavily guarded compound just north of East Berlin. But Krenz moved to a modest house in East Berlin one week ago and said other leading party officials would follow.

Authorities allowed East German journalists to tour Wandlitz for the first time last week, and Western reporters were given a

tour Monday.

Wandlitz residents have been told to stop using French-made Citroens and to use East German Wartburgs or Soviet-made Ladas when going to East Berlin.

Kiwi and pineapples have been removed from the exclusive shop in the compound and replaced by products that can be found in ordinary stores.

A sales clerk, Jutta Wittig, said Honecker's preferred wine was a dry white, Mueller-Thurgau from Miessen. She said the Honeckers always ate healthy food, including lots of curds.

She said Honecker had "good taste," always ordering dark blue suits with white shirts.

Wolf said Honecker and his wife want to move from Wandlitz before the end of the year.

"But it's not easy to find a suitable apartment for old men and their families in East Berlin," Wolf said. "Otherwise, this place would be empty already."

Honecker and several other ousted politburo members still live in Wandlitz, including former economy czar Guenter Mittag and former propaganda chief Kurt Hager.

Krenz's new leadership has blamed Honecker and Mittag for plunging the country into the crisis, and Mittag has been kicked out of the party. A party commission is conducting a disciplinary probe against Honecker that could result in his ouster from the party.

A special parliamentary commission is also investigating charges of abuse of power by the former leadership.

Krenz has said that Honecker is too ill to be interrogated by the party commission.

Honecker underwent two gallbladder operations this summer and his wife has also told East German media that he still has not recovered fully.